



COMFORT

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ART, LITERATURE
SCIENCE

AND THE

HOME CIRCLE

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THE GANNETT & MORSE
CONCERN,

AUGUSTA, ME.



COLUMBIA'S WELCOME TO THE
WORLD'S FAIR.

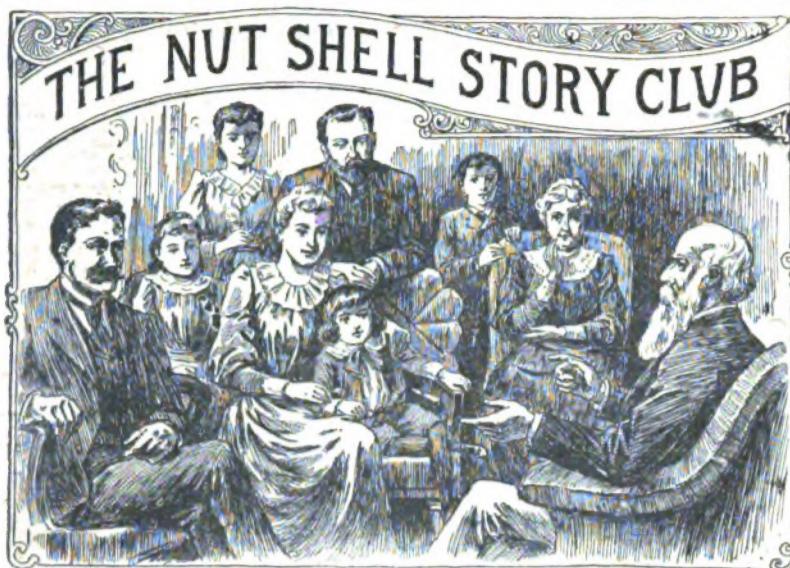
GREETING.

With the most delightful month of the year, when trees bud and early flowers bloom, and all the world is alive with promise, comes the most important event of the century, an event in which all the world is interested—the great fair at Chicago which is to do honor to the wonderful advances the world, civilization, arts, science, and morality have made in the five most productive centuries of the Christian era,—the lifetime of the new world.

While we, as a people, may justly be proud of our history, and of the fact that ours,—the youngest country—is the leader to-day, it must not be forgotten that we, as a nation, have profited by the "long results of time" in other lands, and that our great prosperity and our cleverness in invention is largely due to the fact that the brains of the United States are drawn from all countries. To our progress every nation on the Globe has contributed. To our willingness to admit all men with their varied characteristics to a share in our prosperity, is due the variety of our products and our advance of the rest of the world in many industries.

The coming fair will be a liberal education to all who visit it. It is hoped that every one in the 1,221,000 families to whom COMFORT is a regular visitor, will make every effort to see the exhibit that they may not only know what their own country has accomplished, but what other nations are doing.

Any sacrifice that parents make to enable their children to visit Chicago will be capital well invested. We cannot recommend them too strongly to feel it a duty as good citizens to do so, and as good parents to take the young people even if a year's economy must follow. It will have a sure influence on their after lives, and contribute to their present culture, happiness, and comfort.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

The following conditions will hereafter govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for any one to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two new yearly subscribers (together with 25 cents for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors who may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 1,500 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. The writer of the best original story will receive \$30 cash; of the second best, \$25 cash; of the third best, \$20 cash and of the fourth best, \$15 cash. Remittances will be made by check as soon as awards have been made.

The publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MAY.

Alwin B. Jovenil, First Prize.

Samuel Freedman, Second Prize.

J. W. Bothem, Third Prize.

Ad. H. Gibson, Fourth Prize.

PLANTING A BABY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ALWIN B. JOVENIL.

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KNOTTY thought-lines furrowed the white forehead and puckered the ruby lips of little Ruth. She was only six years old, and thinking hard is very hard work, especially when such big thoughts come crowding into so small a head as those which just at present vexed Ruth.

"S'pose babies must grow same as 'tatoes or popcorn," she said aloud, communing with herself after the manner of young children. "My papa planted 'tatoes in the ground and they grew a lot of baby 'tatoes—O my!" and she clasped her chubby hands together and looked, in a perfect ecstasy of delight and wonder, down upon the rosy face of her little ten-weeks-old brother, who lay kicking and crowing in the cradle she was rocking. "O my!

I wonder if I

couldn't grow a lot of 'Tootses' the same as my pa grew 'tatoes!" "Toots" was the name Ruth had given her little brother, whose real cognomen was John—John Thomas Jones.

"I fink you're the dearest sweetest little fing, and I know my mamma and papa can't have any too many of you, 'cause they loves you so," continued Ruth. "Now I'll dess take you to the garden and plant you and grow a lot of little 'Tootses,' and won't my mamma and papa be surprised and pleased when they get back!"

At this juncture a very troublesome problem presented itself to Ruth and once more the knotted lines came upon the white forehead. At last she said slowly, as though pondering very carefully every word: "I wonder if 'Toots' is a seed or a slip? 'Cause if he's a seed I must plant him all over, and if he's a slip I must leave his head sticking out." Ruth had seen her mother planting slips of flowers and remembered how her father had covered the pop-corn. The thought-lines deepened and the sweet little face began to look very profound. Suddenly her countenance lighted up and she exclaimed with a merry little laugh: "O, what a silly dirl I be! 'Course 'Toots' is a slip; 'cause didn't I hear my papa call him a 'little slip of a fing.' Now I'll dit a hoe and dig a hole and put 'Toots' in and cover him all up 'cept his head and arms. Dess be the dodedest little 'Toots' that ever was. Sister won't be gone long," and Ruth, placing a soft palm on each fat cheek, stooped and, for a brief moment, smothered the happy cooings of the child with her kisses; and then ran quickly out of the house to the garden to make ready the ground for baby planting.

It was a warm sunny afternoon in the early part of

June. Just the time for planting babies, Ruth thought. She soon found a small patch of ground, which her father had turned up with the spade only that morning, and at once began digging with the hoe, she had brought with her, in the loose soil. In a short time she had a hole deep enough and big enough in which to plant her slip of a baby.

"There, I fink that's dess 'bout right," she said, thoughtfully surveying her work and carefully wiping her soil-stained hands upon her white apron. "Now I'll dit 'Toots,'" and she hurried into the house.

"Toots" was still kicking and crowing. He held his tin rattle-box in one chubby fist, and as Ruth came in he shook it at her vigorously and crowed louder than ever. He had just discovered that he could make it rattle and was very proud of the fact and wanted his big sister to see what a bright little lad he was.

"O, you cunning little fing!" she exclaimed the moment she became aware of his new accomplishment. "Sister's going to plant you and grow a lot of you. There isn't near 'nuf now to go 'round,' and she caught him up in her arms and hastened with him out of the house, being very careful not to make any noise for fear that Mary, the hired girl, who was singing at her work in the kitchen, might stop her. She had an idea that Mary did not like "tending babies" and would be displeased if she knew that she was about to raise another crop.

Ruth placed the baby in the cool moist hole which she had dug, and with many a gentle love-pat packed the dirt tightly around his body, leaving only his head and arms sticking out.

"S'pose I ought to water him," she said thoughtfully, as she surveyed the protruding arms and head. "Cause my mamma always waters slips when she plants them. I'll dit the water-pot," and she hastened away after the article.

"Toots" couldn't just understand what was being done to him, but he thought it must be something very nice, for his sister looked so happy. He opened his big blue eyes as wide as he could and stared around. A few feet to the front a robin had alighted and was now hopping up cautiously toward him, doubtlessly wondering greatly what kind of a garden-vegetable this strange-looking thing was.

"Toots" crowded with delight." The robin stopped short and turning his head from side to side looked inquiringly at him

for a moment, then took a couple of quick hops nearer and stopped again.

"Toots" extended both hands toward the bird and squealed and crowed with all his might.

The robin was non-plussed. He could not remember of ever having seen or heard of a plant behaving after this manner before. He cocked his little head first to one side then to the other, chirruped, took another hop nearer the baby and then, his timid heart taking flight, flew to a neighboring apple tree.

"Toots" did not like this. He wanted to get hold of the pretty little thing; and he now began to feel very uncomfortable too. He dug his fat dirty fists into his eyes and rubbed dirt all over his face, and had just opened his mouth to give utterance to a vigorous protest to this sort of thing, when Ruth came up with the big water-pot.

"My, how funny 'Toots' looks!" she exclaimed the moment she caught sight of his dirt-plastered face. "S'pose it's 'cause he's ginning to grow. I dess I'd better sprinkle him now," and she tipped up the water-pot.

Hundreds of sparkling drops fell upon "Toots'" unprotected head. Never in all of his short life had anything like this happened to him before, and he was badly frightened and screamed so loudly that the little robin in the apple tree near by flew away in a great fright.

"Ruth! Ruth!—Heavens and earth, child! what are you doing?" and Ruth's father sprang forward, and quickly pulling the baby out of the muddy ground, turned sternly upon his daughter.

Ruth, at this unexpected termination of her baby planting, burst into tears and explained, between her sobs: "O papa, I fought there wasn't 'nuf 'Toots' to go 'round, so I planted him to grow some more, 'cause I loves him so."

"OLD MARY."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SAMUEL FREEDMAN.

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WAS the only name she was known by. If a stranger would ask for the rest of it, he would be told: "Old Mary—that's all. She aint got no other names nor that."

She was a fixture in the village of Marysville—its first settler. Had she been a man, she would now have been its chief magistrate, but being only a woman, she could only serve as a sort of land mark.

She had a "past" and all could tell of it. Away back in the forties before the date of the first land grant in Marysville

register's office, when she was a pretty young Scotch girl, she came there with her newly made husband. He drove the first pick into the unyielding soil in quest of ore and called the wild place Marysville after her. They were very happy, so the story went. Though all her great, strong lover brought was labor and honesty, love robbed realism of its severity.

There came a syndicate to Marysville one day equipped with eastern capital and machinery, and "Old Mary's" husband was made foreman of the works. Aided by his superior force, for he was working for his bonnie lassie, they sunk the shafts to enormous depths, and soon a small mountain had been torn from the bottom of the earth and a gaping hole took its place. "We will soon reach the vein" was the cry each day. One morning, there resounded over the place the sound of a bursting avalanche and when the noise and dust had cleared away, every one knew that the mine had fallen in and buried its foreman, the young husband. Then the company was discouraged and gave up its plant. Marysville resumed its old proportions and of all its inflow and old inhabitants, "Old Mary" was almost the only one that remained.

And she did remain, a patient watcher by the dead, who without a casket, lay buried beneath a greater depth of turf than had ever embedded mortal before. And as the years came and went, children and children's children grew to look upon her as much a part of the village as the spire over the little church or the gnarled tree before the school-house. In front of the little cabin beside the ruins of the pit which told of the tragedy it held, she was daily seen measuring the seams of her apron back and forth, speaking to herself some old Scotch phrase, now peering into the abyss below and now with the tears coursing down the furrows of her soft-skinned wrinkled face.

Around her would cluster the gorgeous, carnival colored wild flowers, nodding their yellow, pink or purple heads in sympathy, and in the morning when the dews would still lie on their petals like great celestial teardrops, she would caress them with her hand and say, "Aye, e'en ye weep by his grave," for being but a woman, she could only dream of a past in which she lived; and being weak and good, could only pray for a time hoped to come. "Her head is full of fancy and her heart is dead and empty," they would say of her.

But when quiet, patient and uncomplaining, she went through her daily life like a soul embedded in a tomb, when she gave her small mite into the contribution box, nursed the sick or helped mothers with young children, or when she was seen in the little church of St. Mary's peering through the brilliant, sunlight colored window, the people said of her: "She has the Virgin's name, she has the Virgin's soul."

She prayed for a miracle and it came!

Prospectors came to Marysville and again said that the land teemed with ore. They took up the work where the weak-kneed syndicate had dropped it years before, and after many weeks the mountain of earth that had fallen upon the works was raised. They came to the exact spot where the work before them had been stopped when suddenly an excitement was noticed around the Marysville mine. White-faced men came up from it with eyes wild and staring and comrades, to whom they whispered strange things, looked at them in disbelief and amazement and made their way below. Soon the thing was whispered all over Marysville and it came to the ears of "Old Mary."

Not a quiver showed on her face when she heard of it. She took the arm of one man and stepping into the wicker carriage was lowered below. She had known it would come through all these years. She had waited and watched when the new miners began work, for she expected them to bring to her arms out of that black vaulted grave the remains of her husband, if only that she might press upon his skeleton lips the holy kiss of love and lower him into a consecrated grave. She knew this was all to come to her sooner or later, so her steps did not tremble when she stepped from the carriage many feet below the surface. She needed no support but limped through the well-lighted subterranean chambers to the place they pointed out.

But when she saw what lay there, she gave a shriek that each remembered to his dying day. For under an overhanging chasm of stone, formed like a cave, with one arm under his head as though in peaceful sleep, lay, not the form of a moulder skeleton, but her boy-husband, perfect as upon the morning when he had parted from her all those years before. The flush was still upon his cheek, and in his hand was the miniature of a girlish face—her own when she was young—clasped to his heart. So he had laid himself down there all those years before to a sleep that in fifty years knew no awakening, so he had died and through it all the gases, or the waters of minerals, the cold of the subterranean vault, the atmosphere or other conditions—things that are known to God and science only had preserved him for her, perfect, calm and beautiful.

The miracle was accomplished!

He was given back as he had been taken from her; but alas, she had come to meet him with the snows of years upon her brow, with limbs palsied and feeble, with wrinkled face and fading eye. In the years that had intervened she had never thought of the change. The love that filled her heart when it was young, had grown with her years and now became the love of age for age, but this boy, once her husband, this young lover lay before her like a mockery. She knew that if animation was given him, he would now turn away from her tottering remnant of life, in horror.

Trembling and feeble now, she sank down by his side, crouched and kissed the boyish lips. Those that were near heard her give a sob like the cry of a breaking heart that age has shrivelled, while her old head fell forward on the young breast. They took her tenderly away and that day buried the boy near the village church.

But "Old Mary" still clung to her home by the chasm's side and watched the yawning gap just as she did of yore. She would often place her hand to her head in a wondering sort of way and peer below with an expectant gaze, as if awaiting the arising of some indefinite thing. Some said it was a kindred soul she awaited to come to her from those black depths. Others, in consolation, would often tell her that somewhere lifetimes are but seconds, and all things mortal are seen as only dust and fancy, and that they will meet again where no age or time divides them.

[NUTSHELL STORIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

"German Syrup"

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complexion is now clear and white as a child's. Everyone
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Please send me your terms to agents.

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terrible, I found nothing that could help me until I tried my
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THE NUTSHELL STORY CLUB.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.]

A TALE OF THE MINES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY J. W. BOTHEM.

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ARKINS will you write to the old folks in Ireland, and tell them I died bravely as an innocent man should?"

As I write these words, there comes vividly before my mind the scene and the circumstances under which they were uttered. I was a member of a party of miners, whose camp was under the shadow of the grand old mountains of California, during one of the gold fevers, years ago.

Far removed from any court of justice, we were compelled to punish offenders in any way that an improvised jury and judge might direct. In the afternoon of the day of which I write, there had come into our camp an old man, who inquired for the leader of our party. He was directed to the cabin of Col. Randall, who had, by general consent, been selected to take charge of affairs. He had participated, as principal, in a number of duels and was just the kind of a man to command respect in a party composed, as ours was, of all sorts.

On coming into his presence the old man told his story. He said:

"Last night, about nine o'clock a young man, a stranger to me, came to my cabin, about eight miles down the trail, and asked for a night's lodging. I cheerfully complied with his request and after a friendly chat and smoke, I showed him to one of the two rooms of my cabin. I bade him good-night and turning in myself I was soon asleep and slept soundly till after daybreak. I prepared breakfast, went to call my lodger, and to my surprise found the room empty. My suspicions were aroused, and I went to the old chest where I had kept all the money I had in the world, about one hundred and eighty dollars in gold.

"It was gone.

"Having searched in other places for the man, unsuccessfully, I thought I would come to ask if you had seen any stranger around these parts."

Col. Randall listened attentively to the story, and then without a word took down the old horn that was used to call in the men on special occasions, and proceeding to the center of the camp blew a long, loud blast. In a moment the miners could be seen making their way into the camp. When they were all assembled the Colonel ordered them all to stand in line. He then directed the old man to look carefully at the men and see, if in any of them, he recognized his guest of the former night. Without any hesitation he touched a young athletic Irishman named Dugan and said, "That's the man."

Dugan, who was a general favorite among the boys, stoutly protested his innocence, but a jury was at once selected and with Col. Randall acting as judge, the trial began.

It was of necessity a short one. The old man told his story as he had repeated it to the Colonel. Dugan swore that he had not left his cabin during the previous night, and the case was given to the jury, who retired to a point about one hundred yards distant and returned, after an absence of about fifteen minutes, with a verdict of "guilty."

The judge requested them to also name the punishment, which after a short deliberation they announced as "Twenty lashes on the bare back every hour until he confesses."

Hardy men as we were, and used to the rough usages of uncivilized frontier life, we could not repress a shudder of horror at the sentence, for we knew Dugan to be a man not easily cowed; and, even if guilty, it would take a great amount of punishment to force his confession.

I see his calm determined face now, as he asked the privilege of saying a few words before the punishment commenced. This of course was granted him, and mounting an old stump he said:

"Boys, I expect to die under the lash, for being innocent of the crime charged I cannot confess. But I will die as I have lived, without fear." Then turning to his warmest friend, Larkins, addressed to him the words with which my story opens.

Never, I think, have words spoken in a Court of Justice in civilized life made a deeper impression upon those who heard them, than did that speech by this young Irishman, on the hearts of those rough miners. The sun was sinking behind the grim old mountains whose shadows fell across the camp. The chill November wind sighed through the branches overhead, and into our hearts stole a gloom that brought us into near sympathy with the one on whom this dread sentence had passed, and who, by his speech and manner, had half convinced us of his innocence. But this was no time for sentiment, and at the order of the judge we proceeded to select, by lot, three men who were to administer the punishment.

Dugan was stripped to the waist, bound to a tree, and the scourging began. Not a sound issued from his lips as lash after lash cut through the flesh. Twenty—Forty—Sixty lashes and still no confession. The judge ordered the punishment stopped until the morning, and the poor man, now fearfully lacerated, was taken to the hut that was used as a prison, and a guard was put over him for the night.

My cabin was next to one occupied by the judge, and the next morning about daybreak, when I saw

him start for the scene of action, I joined him. He said to me:

"I am convinced that Dugan is innocent and he must not be punished any further."

We arrived at the prison and saw a crowd surrounding the prisoner, determined to carry out the sentence to the bitter end, when Dugan, throwing up his arms, cried out:

"Hold on boys, I can stand this no longer. If you will go to the back of my cabin, and dig under a large flat stone you will find there, you will soon discover the gold."

We were quick to act on this suggestion, and hastening to the spot, we were not long in finding a bag containing one hundred and eighty dollars, in good American coin.

We handed it to the old man, who, taking from it a twenty dollar gold piece, threw it to Dugan and departed in the direction of his home; while the miners, with the exception of the now humiliated Dugan, went to work hoping that not soon again would the sound of the old horn summon us to such a scene.

TRAINING A WIFE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY AD. H. GIBSON.

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YOUNG Dr. Harrison had been married two months. He and his pretty blue-eyed, peach-cheeked little wife had gone to housekeeping immediately in his pleasant suburban cottage, near

Chicago. They were very happy together, despite the fact that the doctor had one domestic trouble; his wife would feed every tramp who stopped at their back door, no matter how unpossessing the wanderer might be.

Feeling it his duty, the doctor had more than once remonstrated with her against the wrong of encouraging that

worthless class of beings.

His remonstrances, however, availed nothing. Millie Harrison was too tender-hearted to refuse something to eat to the dirtiest tramp on the road. She would have divided her last loaf with a hungry person.

"How do I know whether he is good or bad?" she would say to the doctor. "God is the judge, not I. By driving one from our door without food, I might commit a great sin in His sight. Remember, Dick. He says, 'I was hungry and ye fed me not; naked, and ye clothed me not.'

But Richard Harrison was in no humor to listen that morning to Biblical quotations. He was displeased with her, because, just the day before, thinking her husband would never wear that old brown coat again, she had given it to a shivering tramp at her door. It happened, however, that the old coat held, in one of its pockets, some papers and prescriptions particularly valuable to the doctor. Of course Millie never dreamed of this, and now Richard was angry and would not forgive her.

He went off to his office up town without kissing her, and she, tender little woman, had a good cry before she began washing her breakfast dishes.

When Dr. Harrison reached his office, he sat down and began to think.

"Uncle Josh says it's the duty of every man to train his wife to suit him," he mused. "Now I've never believed in wife-training, because I think when a woman marries she ought to have common sense enough to attend to things about the house without any interference from the husband. Millie is good and I love her, but she is young and has some foolish ideas. That one about entertaining tramps is the most annoying to me. It must be stopped, too, or there is no telling to what it may lead. I suppose, as Uncle Josh has told me, it's my duty to train Millie well, I'll begin by sickening her of the gay and festive tramp. I have it! I hate to scare Millie, but it's for her good."

Dashing off a note to his partner, saying he would be gone an hour or two, he grabbed his hat and left the office hurriedly. Hastening to an obscure customer's shop, where detectives and other persons often find it convenient to make a complete change in their attire, Richard Harrison procured for himself the disguise of a seedy tramp.

Millie, her pretty eyes red from weeping, was wiping the cups and saucers, when the door opened, and one of the most repellant looking tramps she had ever seen, stood before her.

"Woman," he said in a gruff voice, "I've heard you was famous for helpin' unfortunate critters like me. I'm wantin' somethin' to nibble at."

"Take that chair," she returned, setting bread and cold meat on the table before him. "I will give you a little breakfast."

"See here, woman, bread an' ole tough beef are gettin' mighty tiresome eatin'. I'll bet yer got somethin' better in that closet—preserves, pies an' things. Gee! Wot's that shinin' thing?"



It was Millie Harrison's beautiful gold wedding

ring which had suddenly attracted the tramp's attention. She had removed it from her finger, while washing the dishes, and had placed it on the table.

With sudden apprehension she stepped forward to secure her ring, but the tramp pushed her rudely back and put it into his pocket.

"Married women has no need o' rings," he said, contemptuously. "I kin use sich things best in my business. Now trot inter that closet an' bring me out some o' yer dainties. Be quick about it, too, an' don't yer darst to screech, or I'll choke yer black an' blue!"

The tramp's threat made her tremble visibly from fear, but she did not lose her entire self-possession. Her wits were keenly at work to regain her ring, the keepsake which her heart prized above all others.

At mention of the closet, an idea darted into her mind. Stepping to the door she flung it open, saying:

"You may go in and help yourself to the best I have."

With a triumphant chuckle the tramp obeyed. But no sooner was he well within the closet, than slam! went the door, and swift fingers slipped the iron fastening into its proper position. The tramp was trapped!

There was a great crash, as man, flour barrel, baskets, and fruit jars toppled over in a confused mass upon the floor of the darkened closet.

But Millie Harrison did not wait to hear the tramp's entreaties for release. She ran immediately to the little parlor, which communicated with her husband's office by a telephone wire.

Dr. Abington, her husband's associate physician, answered her call.

"Send policeman at once. Man in closet," she called back.

In a very short time, Abington and a large policeman arrived. Mrs. Harrison gave the particulars in a few words, as she led the way to the closet where sounds of kicking, pounding, accompanied by vigorous demands to be released, could be heard.

"Let me out! Don't you know me?" he yelled.

"Don't excite yourself," said the policeman at the door. "I think I know you. I have a place for such fellows as you."

Then the door was thrown open by the policeman, and the captive, covered with flour, jellies, and mortification, tumbled headlong into the kitchen. Millie screamed and hid her face.

"It's Richard!" she uttered in a little shriek. "Oh!"

"What does this mean?" demanded the officer, frowning.

"It means I've been acting the fool," returned Dr. Harrison, rising in his ignoble condition and facing the astonished trio before him. "I thought my wife needed a little training. She is in the habit of giving a bite, now and then, to tramps who stop at our back door. So I decided to play tramp, and scare her so thoroughly that she would abandon her philanthropy in that direction. But she's a braver little woman, God bless her! than I gave her credit for being. Here's your ring, dear. If you'll forgive me I'll never try training you again."

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\$100.00 IN CASH PRIZES \$100.00

The publishers take pleasure in announcing that in order to increase the common interest in this department, and to develop the inventive power and originality of *COMFORT* readers, they offer the following Cash prizes:

1st. A Cash prize of TWENTY DOLLARS (\$20) will be given for the best original and practical suggestion for use in this department.

2nd. A Cash prize of FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$15) will be given for the Second best suggestion in the same line.

3rd. A Cash prize of ten dollars (\$10) for the next best.

4th. A Cash prize of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) for the next.

5th. A Cash prize of five dollars (\$5) for the next.

6th. A Cash prize of three dollars (\$3) for the next.

7th. Ten Cash prizes of two dollars (\$2) each for the next ten and

8th. Twenty Cash prizes of one dollar (\$1) each for the next twenty, making 36 prizes in all to be given for such suggestions as rank in the above order of merit.

CONDITIONS.

Competitors must be yearly paid-up subscribers to *COMFORT*; and in addition must send at least one yearly subscriber, with twenty-five cents, the price of one year's subscription to *COMFORT* for each new subscriber so sent.

Letters must be received before September first; and awards will be published in the October issue.

Letters must be written plainly on one side of the paper only.

Letters must be short, plain, explicit and contain no superfluous words.

No manuscript will be returned.

Descriptions may cover fancy articles, gifts for old and young, designs in drawn-work, embroidery, etc. Only such patterns of knitting and crocheting will be considered as are of exceptional merit and originality. Designs for internal and external decorations of the house may be entered in the contest, or suggestions on any topic contributing to home comfort or individual happiness. Illustrations of articles suggested, when possible, will add to the value of letters. Designs or suggestions must be absolutely original with the writer, never having appeared in print before, and not copied from books or other sources.

No communication will be considered that is not sufficiently stamped, and accompanied by the writer's full name and address.

The conditions are fully given here and consequently no letters of inquiry or of a personal nature will be answered.

Articles will be judged on merit alone.

Competition positively closes September first.

The publishers reserve the right to use any suggestions submitted which may not be awarded a prize.

All communications must be fully prepaid and addressed to *BUSY BEE*, Care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.



EXT month I hope to place before you some of the designs and suggestions which are coming in response to our prize offer at the head of this column. But in the meantime, I must tell you of some new things lately seen in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York.

Just a word about the prize-offer first, however. Read the conditions very carefully, please.

You understand that in order to compete for the prizes, you must be a regular, paid-up yearly subscriber, yourself, and must send us at least one new subscriber, with the full year's subscription (twenty-five cents) for each new name; and that you have from now to September to work in.

Don't write us long letters; and as we have a daily business mail of from 5,000 to 6,500 letters, it will be utterly impossible for us to answer or to return Miss.

If you make your designs and suggestions short, (and nothing else is wanted) it will be very easy for you to retain a copy of what you submit to this competition. Wherever you can, too, send us a drawing illustrating your idea. Of course we don't expect you to make pictures ready for our use. Unless you are a professional artist, it will be impossible for you to do that. But we have a corps of special artists, whom you can aid very materially by some sort of rough drawing.

Again, be original. Don't copy, and don't send us anything that has ever been in print. *COMFORT* has over 6,000,000 readers every month, and if we publish anything that is not absolutely fresh and new, somebody is going to let us know it.

There will be, doubtless, in spite of the fact that the above offer includes thirty-six prizes, many more novel and useful suggestions than that. Those which seem to us the best will be awarded special prizes. But you will note that the publishers reserve the right to use such of the others as they may see fit. This contest is going to bring out such good talent and novel ideas, however, that it will be an honor to appear in these columns—even if you should not be awarded a prize.

Now study the conditions very carefully, and then I expect to receive something fresh and new from all of you.

About the new ideas from the great cities? Well, there, as everywhere else, with May comes the idea of renovating the house and getting ready for summer. House-cleaning is a necessary evil that comes to rich and poor alike. It used to be the fashion among the wealthy classes to use heavy draperies in the winter, and when spring came, to put them away and substitute mattings or rugs, and light cool furniture. But so much more comfortable did the latter fashion seem, that there has been a revolution in the ideas of modern house-holders.



JAPANESE FLOOR MATTING.

Some years ago, the fashion came over from Europe of using a profusion of rugs. Americans, you know, always do things by wholesale; so instead of abandoning carpets, as foreigners do, they caught up the craze for rugs, but laid them down over thick heavy carpets. The consequence was, that our parlors and drawing-rooms—yes, and bed-rooms—which of all places ought to be fresh and sweet—became stuffy and unhealthy. Carpets take up and hide away great quantities of dust, and disease germs. But we had paid for expensive carpets, and could not get used to the idea of going without them.

Now, however, a sensible revolution has set in. We used to look upon straw matting as ugly, cheap stuff, fit only for servants' rooms and closets. But with the advent of Japanese matting in this country, our ideas have undergone a change.

Matting, for several years, have been growing more artistic. Now the Japanese matting are nothing short of beautiful. It is the fashion to-day, both in city and country houses, to put these fine, handsome coverings on every floor in the house. The beautiful and costly foreign rugs show to much better advantage on them; they do not gather dust, they are more economical, and they are much more artistic than carpets. The wealthy classes are adopting them. In fact, I know of houses furnished from top to bottom with Japanese matting, at less than a dollar a yard; but which have over three thousand dollars worth of rugs also!

A young man whom I know, is furnishing one of the finest apartments in Boston with Japanese matting and rugs.

When he first began to think of furnishing bachelor quarters, he casually asked a young lady to whom he had been introduced:

"Would you use tides in your house?"

"No, I abominate tides," said the girl. She voiced the sentiment of every man in Christendom, and this one in particular was at once interested in her.

Some time after, he was thrown with her again.

"Would you furnish a house with shining upholstered satin furniture?" he asked.

"No, indeed, I wouldn't," replied this sensible maiden. "I want only quiet, rest-



JAPANESE WALL-MATTING.

ful fabrics about me."

She didn't know it, but he liked her from that moment. When he met her again, he put another test question:

"I say, would you use matting or carpets on your floors?"

"Matting, by all means," was the all unconscious answer.

Then he fell hopelessly, violently in love. The sequel is obvious. Girls, take heed.

Now, this young woman, busy with her own pursuits and not thinking of "marriage or giving in marriage," gave the young man, without knowing it, such a glimpse of a quiet, restful home, where "fussiness" and millinery, artistic ribbon bows and tides should be unknown, and solid comfort reign, that her "market was made" before she knew it.

After this story, every young woman who reads *COMFORT* will want to know more about matting.

The finest ones are made in Japan. These are quite different from the ordinary Cocoa mattings. They are machine made, with a strong linen warp, and a filling made of the finest straw or reeds. Sometimes this is colored and woven in various designs, with a "watered" effect. The most beautiful ones, however, have a plain background, with colored figures worked in, as our illustrations show. The one which gives a picture of birds flying across the plain surface, is of remarkably fine quality. The texture is as fine as silk, to the eye, and as pliable as any heavy fabric to the touch. One can hardly believe it is "straw matting," and in fact it is seldom used on the floor.

These finer qualities are used as dados, and even take the place of wall-paper in some instances. They are exceedingly decorative and not expensive. The other illustration gives a beautiful matting which is used instead of a carpet. The prices on these Japanese goods range between forty cents and a dollar a yard. They are kept, now, at all the leading carpet-stores in the great cities; so if your local dealer does not have them, you can send



DECORATED CIGAR-BOX.

for samples and prices to your nearest city and will doubtless find something to please you. Let me assure you that if you once try a handsome matting with warm harmonious rugs, you will never return to carpets.

Do you know how much better, in every way, brass bedsteads are than the clumsy, wooden ones? They are light and easily moved, do not hold dust, cannot hide away vermin, and are always bright and cheerful. They cost from ten to a hundred dollars. Many of the newer ones have a high-post head piece with a canopy frame. On this frame are draped art silks edged with ball fringe. It is the old-fashioned idea of bed-canopies, such as were thought necessary in old times. Empire styles prevail in everything this year; so the bed-canopy has appeared in full force. But instead of the heavy draperies all around the bed—that the modern ones are draped lightly over the head of it.

They are useful in preventing drafts from reaching the sleeper's head, and are exceedingly dressy as well. One of the prettiest I have seen has a large canvas fitted into the high frame above the head; and on this is a beautiful painting of a child just awaking from sleep.

I wonder how many Busy Bees have an emergency book? Unless you have one, you have no idea how useful it is. Have a scrap-book, not necessarily an expensive one, a homemade one of manilla paper will do. Then, whenever you come across any domestic hint or recipe that seems worth while, paste them in. One of our readers says she keeps one made up specially from *COMFORT*. She divides it into several parts, under the heading "Busy Bees," "Aunt Minerva," "Kitchen Chats," "Facts for Women," etc., and every month clips from *COMFORT* everything worth saving, ("and when I have done that," she says, "there is precious little left of the paper!") Then she pastes them into the book in their proper places. It is an excellent plan, and I recommend it to every Busy Bee.

"Flower" bed-rooms, decorated to match certain flowers, are among the latest fads. The wall-paper has a design of some wild flower—the primrose, for example, and a broad border is used in which this flower is prominent. Cretonne is selected in which this same flower predominates, and is used for curtains, bed-

spread and ruffled pillow-shams. A dull green carpet, or a fine matting may be put on the floor. Toilet covers and towels embroidered with primroses in wash silks are necessary to complete the harmony of the whole. Some, even, go so far, as to embroider sheets and pillows in the same fashion, but that seems a waste of time. Of course other designs may be substituted; and from this hint a woman with ingenuity can evolve a variety of pretty rooms.

Among the new fashions for a young girl's bed-spread is one of dotted ecru muslin, made up over unbleached sheeting, or over some color which harmonizes with the room. Pillow-shams may be made to match, and the whole edged with dainty ruffles. Curtains at the window, and toilet-covers of the same material would complete the room in a charming and inexpensive manner. Bolton sheeting embroidered in some simple design in wash silks or linen is very popular for "grown-up" beds.

Here is a good way to utilize the wooden butter-boxes that accumulate in every village or city home. The five-pound boxes are the best, and should first be sand-papered and treated to a coat of white enamel or gilding. Then paint them with a scroll pattern, or a simple design of natural flowers, or a bunch of paper chrysanthemums may be tacked on. The inside may be treated to a coat of enamel to match the prevailing tint of the decorations, or lined with silk; and a big bow of ribbon of the same shade should be tacked on to the cover. They will be found very useful accessories to the toilet or work-table.

Empty cigar-boxes may be treated in the same way—first burning a little alcohol or brandy in the box to remove the smell of tobacco.

A pretty case for a traveling flask is easily made. Cut two pieces of chamois skin or wash-leather, just the shape but a trifle smaller than the bottle. These should be punctured around the edges and then laced tightly together on the bottle with narrow satin ribbon. Paint a spray of flowers on one side, and a monogram on the other. Hints for monograms may be easily obtained from Aunt Minerva's department; and if you cannot paint, both monogram and spray may be embroidered in fancy silks.

A pretty photograph holder may be made by cutting white cardboard in fan shape. Any old fan will serve for a pattern. Cut two such pieces, with several openings in one for pictures. Gild the edges of these apertures very lightly. Crowd together paper-flowers, or even artificial ones, to make a full ruche at the edge. A bow of ribbon of the same shade as the flowers looks well at the bottom. A very pretty one might be made by using artificial English violets (which are plenty and cheap) for the edge, scattering a few here and there over the front side, and tying a small bow of violet colored ribbon to the bottom.

Don't forget, in getting your houses ready for summer, to have everything arranged for comfort, and not for show. Let the sunlight in. Don't be afraid of fading your carpets. Use matting and then there will be no danger of the latter. Don't use silk scarfs and tides in profusion—they have had their day and a little of that kind of decoration goes a great way. Plain, neat, comfortable looking rooms are the modern style, with plenty of soft rugs, sofas and easy chairs, and big, inviting pillows and head-rests. Avoid millinery and useless extras. Have nothing too good for daily use—and then use it.

BUSY BEE.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Queen Victoria has been studying Hindostanee. Vienna is said to be rivaling Paris as a fashion authority.

Lecture bureaus say there is a constant increase in the demand for woman-lecturers.

Adeline Patti is coming over to sing farewell to us for the seventh time next fall.

There are said to be more women engaged in business in Finland than in any other country.

Four women were recently arrested in New York as fortune tellers and held in \$200 bail.

A woman-clergyman recently offered the morning prayer in the Wisconsin House of Representatives.

Miss Betsy Metcalf of Providence, R. I., braided the first straw bonnet made in this country, in 1798.

The trustees of Vassar College made each member of the Senior Class an Easter gift this spring of a sterling silver spoon with a gold bowl.

Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, the widow of the late U. S. Senator from California, is about to erect a million dollar museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Dressmakers in London and Paris furnish elegant toilettes to certain persons for nothing, on condition that they will serve as "a walking advertisement" for them.

The best veterinary surgeon in New Orleans is said to be a woman. She is the wife of a drayman, and does her work without charge, from pure love of animals.

Miss Anna Larson, a Swedish girl, recently graduated at a medical college in Wisconsin, and returned to Sweden with her diploma—the first woman-doctor of her native land.

Woman suffrage is on the increase in England. A bill lately introduced into Parliament will give women, if carried, equal rights to vote on parish property, land allotments, roads, water-supply, lighting and general sanitation.

At a Boston divorce court this spring, a woman introduced a 14 inch box full of hair that had been pulled from her head by her infurated husband at different times. Truly, if hair-pulling isn't to be allowed, marriage is a failure.

Lillian Russell, the tragedienne, has discovered a great future actor in her coachman—a young Indian of the Shinnecock tribe. She is helping him to develop his talents and is assisting him to become a theatrical manager to expect great things of him. His Indian name is Tacañee; his stage name will probably be Take-a-cause.

CANCER AND ITS CURE.

Drs. McLeish & Weber, 123 John St., Cincinnati, O., have made the treatment of Cancer a specialty for twenty years. Their success is set forth in a "Treatise" mailed free to anyone.

There is a woman jail-keeper in East Greenwich, L. I. She occupies the post that her father and grandfather filled, and the building is somewhat out of repair. Her popularity may be judged by a letter one of the inmates recently wrote the Governor, saying, "If you don't patch up this place as Mrs. Smith wants it pretty soon, I shall leave."

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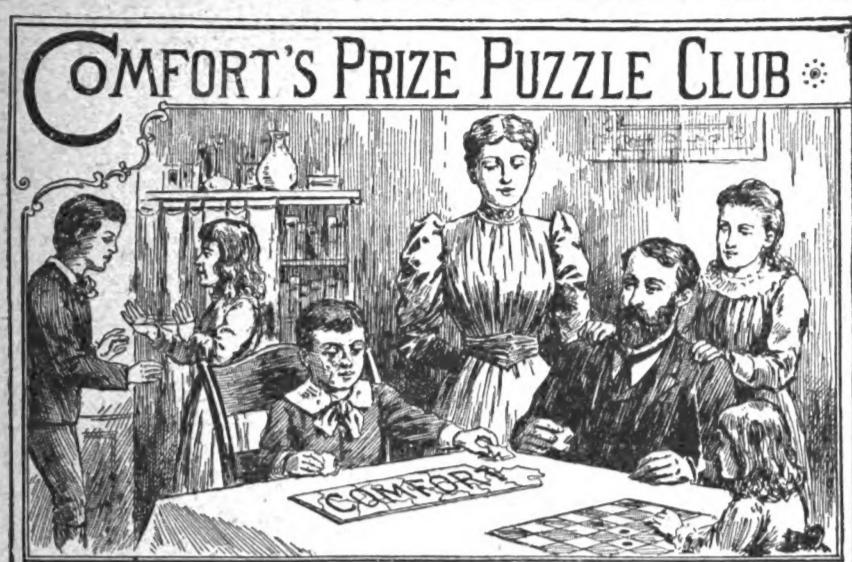
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To become a member of COMFORT's Prize Puzzle Club, it will be necessary to be a regular, yearly, paid-up subscriber to COMFORT; also to send in, at one time, the names of not less than four new subscribers with 25 cents for each, to pay for one year's subscription to COMFORT. These four or more subscribers must be sent in one lot, and will be received any time before the competition closes.

It must be distinctly understood, however, that subscriptions sent in under this Prize Puzzle Club offer are not entitled to any premiums which may be offered by the publishers of COMFORT to other get-togethers of Clubs. Old and young, men, women, boys and girls, are cordially invited to join the club.

We shall publish in May, June, July and August, from six to ten prize puzzles in each issue. We shall award twenty-seven cash prizes, amounting in all to \$100, to those members of the club who send in, before September tenth, the largest number of correct answers to the puzzles published during the four months above named.

The answers to puzzles which appear in these four numbers of COMFORT, must be sent in one lot, and must reach us before September tenth. Parties may become members at any time, and by securing back numbers may take part in this prize competition; but as we cannot agree to supply back numbers, and as COMFORT costs but 25 cents a year, it is for the advantage of all to become members of the Prize Puzzle Club at the earliest possible date.

Competitors must write plainly, on one side of the sheet only, numbering their answers, consecutively, in the order they appear in COMFORT; and aside from answers to puzzles, letters must contain nothing, whatever, but date, full name and full post-office address of the sender. All replies and lists of new subscribers sent under this offer must be sufficiently stamped, and addressed to EDITOR COMFORT'S PRIZE PUZZLE CLUB, AUGUSTA, MAINE. Remittances should be made by money order, postal note, registered letter, or may be sent in postage stamps at the sender's risk. The member sending in the largest number of correct answers to puzzles will receive one cash prize of \$25.

The one sending in the next largest number will receive one cash prize of \$20.

For the next largest number \$15
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And the twenty sending in the twenty next highest number will receive 20 cash prizes of one dollar each 20

TOTAL, \$100

The award of prizes will be announced in the October issue of COMFORT. Should two parties send in the highest number of answers, the one having sent the largest number of subscribers to COMFORT, will be considered first in the awarding of prizes.

This competition is open, positively, to members of this club only; and no one may compete who has not fully complied with all the above named conditions.

As our readers will see by the above, the Puzzle Column is reorganized this month on an entirely new basis which will make it one of the most interesting features of this paper to old and young. All subscribers to COMFORT are cordially invited to compete in this trial of wits, and those who do not succeed in winning a prize (for not all can win) may, at least, find pleasure and profit in solving the puzzles which we shall try to make as interesting as possible.

The value of this work is not simply a question of money. More valuable than money is the exercise it gives the mental faculties, which need brightening up as much as a dull knife needs the whet-stone. Men and women not engaged in occupations requiring brain work are too apt to let their mental faculties rust for want of action. An idle brain, or thoughts spent upon the little daily worries of life, mean premature old age; work for the brain that takes one out of the ruts, means renewed youth, and helps one to think and act with decision.

Men and women engaged entirely in occupations requiring study and thought turn for relief and rest to mechanical employments; for example, one of the Beechers wheeled sand from one side of the cellar to the other to rest his brain. Blackmore, the great novelist, cultivates his garden between his novels, and Black goes on a cruise in his yacht. So men and women, whose lives are spent in mechanical work, can find much profit in any effort that sets the brain in action. Solving a puzzle is as good as a tonic—it is education and cultivation.

Our young readers, too, will find it equally beneficial, for it will serve not only an educational purpose, but give them that aid in the formation of character that comes from any determined effort to surmount difficulties. He who becomes an expert in solving puzzles for amusement, will sometime find the faculty thus gained serve a useful purpose in helping him to solve some of the more serious puzzles that come up in matured life.

We shall be glad of suggestions from those who are interested in the Club, for COMFORT's motive is to attain the highest degree of excellence in every department, and we hope to make continual improvements until our wide circle of readers will be forced to admit that it is the best, as well as the most widely circulated paper in the country.

Get your subscribers and send in your names at once to be enrolled as members of the "Comfort Prize Puzzle Club."

PUZZLES.

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BY MISS ANNA BARROWS, CHIEF OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, YOUNG WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, BOSTON, MASS.

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Experience is a good teacher, but fortunate are those who gain their early experience under wise directors.

A child's mother may be ever so good a dressmaker, or his father ever so brilliant a lawyer, but the child must go to school and get the broadening influence of hundreds of other minds, which is all needed for his best development.

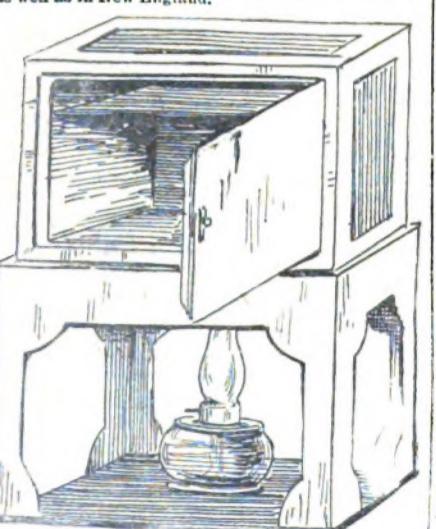
The school of Domestic Science, which I wish to tell you about, was established about five years ago by the directors of the Boston Young Women's Christian Association; wise women, who realized the necessity for such training, perhaps from a lack in their own education. They knew how much good was accomplished by the cooking schools, but thought more could be done by a boarding school, where the pupils should have actual practice, not only in cooking but in the general care of a household, in marketing and keeping accounts.

The school was organized by the well-known writer and lecturer, Mrs. Emma P. Ewing. A part of the Young Women's Christian Association building, Boston, was set apart for the use of the school, and the students had practical instruction in the care of these rooms, and in the art and science of cookery. Beside this, the course now includes instruction in sewing, dress-cutting, millinery and home nursing. Since a large part of Christ's work upon earth related to the common needs of the human frame, the managers of the school feel that it is truly Christian work to show people how to provide and prepare good food for themselves and their children.

During part of the year, one or two classes of twelve year old girls come in for weekly lessons. Other practice-teaching is furnished in connection with a philanthropic work in another part of the city, where girls' clubs and classes in kitchen garden, sewing and cooking, are conducted by the lady at the head of the school and the regular pupils.

It may be seen from this brief outline that the object of this school is to give a general training which will not come amiss in any station of life; and, meantime, to assist young women to find a way in which they may help themselves and their fellow men.

Several of the graduates took the course as a preparation for homes of their own, and were married soon after completing the course. Some daughters of well-to-do parents, are at home making the mother's duties easier; some are directing large households, in hotels, or schools or colleges; some are teaching in the West, or among the colored people in the South, or the working women in cities as well as in New England.



The pupils come from many conditions and localities—New England, the West, Canada; city and country are represented in the present class.

The society young women, who occasionally take the course because they want an object in life, often find that they have much to learn from class-mates who are paying their tuition by hard work.

A happy group you would say they are, if you saw them together in the cooking class-room, carefully

measuring or weighing each ingredient, or trying to ascertain the exact temperature at which some important change in food takes place. But they have few idle moments and their work is by no means easy.

The cooking school-room is fitted up with desks like a chemical laboratory. Here are also coal and gas ranges, and an Aladdin oven where a single lamp can cook a dinner.

These latter are destined to be very popular with housekeepers. As will be seen by the illustration, the oven is large enough to hold several dishes at once. A kerosene lamp is set under it, and the bottom of the oven is so arranged that the heat is distributed evenly, and everything in the oven cooks perfectly. A whole dinner, by putting the different viands in correct dishes, may thus be cooked at once.

This cooker was invented by Edward Atkinson, the noted economist, and is a great saving in heat, space and the quality of the food cooked. Prices range from fourteen to thirty dollars. There is never any smoke, soot or disagreeable odor about it, and, therefore, no trouble in keeping it clean.

Charts, showing the composition of foods, and diagrams, illustrating the way meats are cut by the butcher, hang upon the wall of the class-room. Here are a set of models of different cuts of beef that have deceived many a visitor. Not only are methods of cookery studied, but the nature of the foods, and the new compounds constantly manufactured, and new utensils.

Lectures are given throughout the year by the best teachers of cooking, by physicians, and by marketmen showing how meat is cut up, &c., &c.

The most eager pupils are the very young housekeepers, or those whose diamond rings and eager questions as to housekeeping for two, show what the future has in store for them.

The work is, as yet, in its infancy; but year's, or better a two years' course, is never regretted by those with a natural inclination toward home duties. The school makes no promises as to future positions, yet any woman of good health, and capacity for systematic work, who has fitted herself to prepare wholesome food and direct a household, may always be sure of a good living.

Perhaps the mission of such schools at the present is not only to prepare a few pupils for graduation, but to show the people in general that these homely household duties are not drudgery, but that they are worthy to be called arts and sciences.

The more we know about any subject the more interesting it becomes. Try to learn the reason for the details of daily work, girls, and you will be surprised to find how much pleasure it becomes.

THE CHAFING DISH.

For years, the use of the chafing-dish has been considered a fashionable fad adapted only for bachelor's quarters and the sick-room; but it is too sensible a custom to be allowed to go out of fashion, nor need it be confined to the use of fashionable people.

It is not really a modern utensil, for, although it appears in new forms, our grandmothers had similar appliances; those, however, were not suitable for table use; the frame work was clumsy, and charcoal was used for fuel.

The old-time chafing-dishes more nearly resembled the furnaces of the chestnut vendors, and were kept in one corner of the fireplace to use when more heat would be undesirable.

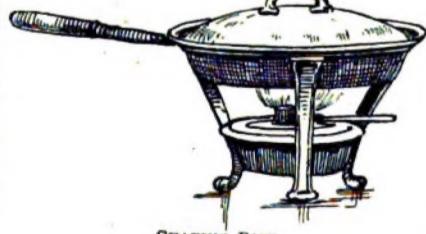
The name has the same origin as the verb "chafe," meaning to heat or warm. The dictionary describes this apparatus as "a vessel to hold coals for heating anything set on it," or "with lamps or the like beneath, having a cover for keeping meat and other food hot."

This then is the real mission of the chafing-dish—to serve hot food; and thus it has come to be used for the most perfect preparation of those foods which, like eggs and oysters and chops, require but little cooking.

We seldom get the full flavor of some foods because so much time elapses between the cooking and eating. Epicures prefer those eating houses where the food is cooked before their eyes, even if the other service be less perfect.

Chafing-dishes come in all styles with widely differing prices. They may be obtained for a dollar or less, in cheap tin, while real silver ones cost from one to five hundred dollars.

The very cheap ones wear out quickly and are undesirable, while the very expensive are more ornamental, but will cook no better than those within reach of people of moderate means.



CHAFING-DISH.

The nickel chafing-dishes, and those made of granite or agate-ware, costing from \$3 to \$5, are best for every-day people; the former require frequent scouring inside, but bear heat better than the latter.

They have a standard to keep the alcohol lamp at a proper distance from the cooking dishes, which are two in number—one for hot water, the other for food. If there is only one pan which comes in direct contact with the flame, it is a brazier rather than a chafing-dish.

The increased use of this apparatus has resulted in the publication of several cook-books especially devoted to it; such as:

"On the Chafing Dish," by H. P. Bailey.

"Cooking with a Chafing Dish," by Thos. J. Murray.

"What one can do with a Chafing Dish," by Miss H. L. Sawtelle.

These are helpful, but one who understands the principles of cookery, is tidy in detail, and deft in movement, can as easily cook on the chafing-dish as on the kitchen range.

Any recipes or suggestions given for the chafing-dish may be imitated with a double boiler on any oil or coal stove.

Much may be accomplished on an alcohol lamp, even on the tiny pocket lamps, which do not cost more than twenty-five cents.

The traveller, or the man or woman who must write or study late at night, will find a faithful friend in one of these little stoves, even if it is used only to heat a drink of milk; for sleeplessness and bad dreams are often caused by exhaustion for which food is a remedy. They are also valuable in a sick-room.

With careful management, alcohol is not so expensive a fuel as one might expect. Two young women who prepared their breakfasts and suppers in their one room, which was their only home in the city, preferred to use alcohol instead of having the slightest odor of kerosene. Buying the alcohol by the quart, they found that twenty-five cents a week would provide their fuel.

Very strong alcohol may be diluted with water. To do this, take a bottle two-thirds or three-fourths full of alcohol and add enough water to nearly fill it, shake vigorously and let it stand sometime before using. Of course, the water does not increase the heating capacity of the alcohol, simply keeps it from burning out.

The alcohol should not be lighted too rapidly—before the food is all ready—and it should be extinguished the instant we are through with it, if we expect it to spend well.

The alcohol lamps used with chafing-dishes are varied in style; some require wicks; in some the alcohol is buried in an open cup.

Last summer a teacher of cooking gave a half dozen short lessons with a chafing-dish on a hotel piazza, using for all only about one pint of alcohol.

It is never wise to try to cook large quantities on a chafing-dish. Although the flame of the alcohol is intensely hot, the lamp is not large enough for the heat to surround the dish as thoroughly as would be the case on a cook stove. A pint of any mixture is about the right quantity to prepare at once in the average chafing-dish.

This paper has no space to devote to any mere recipes, but a few typical dishes may be described. Venison or other game is often cooked at the table by this means, but, in general, raw meat is not attractive to assembled guests.

Oysters or clams should be rinsed and picked over, to remove any bits of shell or seaweed, before they are placed on the table.

Cold meat should be sliced or chopped and any disfiguring portions removed.

Cold potatoes should be pared and sliced, or cut in dice; then Lyonnaise potatoes can be quickly served.

If bread is toasted crisp it will, keep so for a long time, and will be sufficiently heated by a hot sauce. (This is for the benefit of the housekeeper who lets the fire in the range go out and gets supper at the table.) Or, thin, crisp crackers, zephyrs, may be substituted for toast. The odds or ends of pastry, puff or otherwise, may be cut in triangles or fancy shapes and baked crisp and brown to serve in like manner.

A rather indigestible substitute for toast is produced by melting butter in the pan placed directly over the flame and browning the bread in that. Browned crumbs, bread or cracker, are prepared in the same way, a tablespoonful of butter is melted in the pan, a half cupful of crumbs added and stirred constantly until the butter is absorbed and they are all of a rich golden brown. In the same fashion, salted almonds or peanuts can be prepared—the nuts are shelled, blanched and browned in butter or oil and the salt sprinkled over them while still hot. Then they are spread on paper to absorb any extra grease.

Salted nuts are a reminder of confectionery, and nothing is more satisfactory for amateur candy-making than an alcohol lamp.

A few standard sauces are the basis of many which are easily obtained by a change of seasoning.

Bottles of curry powder, beef extract, celery salt, and onion extract should be part of a chafing-dish outfit.

The formula for all the sauces is much the same—for a pint, two rounding tablespoonsfuls of butter are melted in the pan, an equal amount of flour added, and the whole allowed to cook until frothy, then one pint of liquid is gradually added and the mixture is stirred until it thickens and is smooth. Salt, pepper, celery salt, curry powder, or any dry seasoning, may be added with the flour.

For the liquid for a white sauce, use milk, or milk and white stock (from chicken or veal).

Strained tomato gives a tomato sauce.

To make a brown sauce, let the butter begin to brown, then add the flour and stir until it is quite dark, then add one pint of stock from beef, or beef extract diluted. Slices of cold roast meats are delicious if quickly heated in such a sauce, while long cooking does not improve them.

Sweetbreads, so expensive in the city but often very cheap in the country, after parboiling, may be served in the same way.

The hot water pan is to be used in all cases where a steady gentle heat is required, as for a cheese, custard or Welsh rarebit. The cheese should be grated or cut in thin shavings (this may be done previously), melt a tablespoonful of butter in the upper pan, add a half-pound or two cupfuls of cut cheese, stir often while the cheese melts, gradually adding a little milk, using one-fourth to one-half cupful in all. Season with salt, a speck of cayenne and a little mustard, if liked. An egg, or the yolks of two, well beaten, may be added last or omitted. It should be served at once on toast or with crackers. A rich cheese is best, but by constant stirring any common cheese will melt and mix with the milk. More milk and some bread crumbs may be used with the same quantity of cheese instead of serving it on toast.

Scrambled eggs is one of the best subjects for the chafing-dish, and may be much raised by sausages and seasonings, but it is doubtful whether these are a real improvement. A spoonful of butter is melted in the pan, the eggs—only the freshest are to be allowed—are broken into a saucer and then slipped into the pan. A little cream or milk may be added, and the seasoning must be adapted to the taste of the consumer. But the important point is to insure the equal cooking of all portions without over-doing any and yet keep yolk and white to some extent distinct.

Chafing-dish parties have been given where a silver dish engraved with the monogram of each guest was placed before him with the venison chop, which he was to cook to suit his own taste, the chafing-dish to be kept by each as souvenirs of the affair. Few of us can attain to such magnificence, but we all may, with slight expense, provide ourselves with an alcohol lamp or cheap chafing-dish which will give us quite as much comfort.

Something was said in a recent number about the study of sanitation and domestic science. It is not necessary, however, for a woman to take a scientific course before she can understand the first principles of good sanitation. Every housekeeper ought to be able to know the conditions of drains and water-pipes. If your houses have any system of piping for hot and cold water, with either cess-pool or sewer drainage, the best test that any scientific student has yet discovered, is tried with a few cents worth of oil of peppermint. Suppose you have a bath-room on the second floor. Let some one go to the kitchen sink while you stay in the bath-room. Let the other person pour a few drops of peppermint into the sink drain. If you detect the faintest odor of it through the pipes upstairs, there is bad sanitation. Sometimes the experiment is made in the cellar. Of course the smell of peppermint at the opposite end of the piping, must be detected almost immediately. For so powerful is the odor that it will spread itself through the entire house in five minutes. But if any traces of it are detected, at once, by the person not using it, the drainage is wrong.

The increased use of this apparatus has resulted in the publication of several cook-books especially devoted to it; such as:

"On the Chafing Dish," by H. P. Bailey.

"Cooking with a Chafing Dish," by Thos. J. Murray.

"What one can do with a Chafing Dish," by Miss H. L. Sawtelle.

These are helpful, but one who understands the principles of cookery, is tidy in detail, and deft in movement, can as easily cook on the chafing-dish as on the kitchen range.

Any recipes or suggestions given for the chafing-dish may be imitated with a double boiler on any oil or coal stove.

CARDS FOR 1893. 50 SAMPLE STYLES AND LIST OF NO PREMIUM ARTICLES FOR **BAVERFIELD FOR CO., CADIZ, OHIO.**

140 SONGS Mailed Free for Six Cents **THE HEARTHSTONE**, CITY OR COUNTRY.

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ACENTS No Good Kitchen complete without our **Ready Biscuit & Cake Cutters**, 5 styles. Samples of round and square by mail 25cts. Exclusive **Columbia Spec. Mfg. Co.**, 32-40 S. Jefferson St., Chicago.

A WOMAN'S SUCCESS For two years at Home. Instructions **FREE** to lady readers. **\$25 a week** **WEEKLY**. **Send stamp**, **(No hubbing)**, **MRS. J. A. MANNING**, **Box 2**, **Ana, Ohio.**

GOLD - SILVER - NICKEL PLATING. A trade easily learned; costs little to start. I will furnish outfit and give work in part payment. **Circus**, **PA.** **F. LOWEY**, 19 Duffield St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

WE HAVE PAID \$150 PROFIT ON EACH \$100 DEPOSIT, for past 6 months, in monthly cash dividends of 20 to 30 per cent. Smallest sum accepted on deposit, \$25. Write for book and references. **GEO. M. IRWIN & CO., BANKERS and Brokers**, **PITTSBURGH, PA.** **Mention this paper.**

DELICATE CAKE. Easily removed without breaking. **Perfection Tins** require no greasing. **We send 2 layer tins** by mail for 90cts or 3 for 45cts. Write for Circulars to **Agents Wanted. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N.Y.**

ENAMELINE THE MODERN STOVE POLISH. **LITTLE LABOR, NO DUST, NO ODOR.** Sold everywhere. Sample mailed **FREE**. **J. L. PRESCOTT & CO., Box C, No. Berwick, Me.**

FOLKS reduced **15 lbs** a month. **Any one can make** **remedies** at home. **Dr. Isaac Brooks, Woodbury, O.** writes: "It's safe and powerful fat and **curative**." **Miss M. Ainsley, Supply, Ark.** says: I "lost 45 lbs. and feel splendid." Costs a trifle and is as easy to make as "Grape Jelly." No starving, no sickness. Write today as this ad may not appear again. **Particulars (sealed) 2c.** **HALL & CO., "R" Box 404, St. Louis, Mo.**

MAKING FRIENDS AS WELL AS MONEY Means More Money-Business Capital. Showing this **Ironing Board**. Sells it. Making quick profit. Every sale makes a friend. Every friend will buy some other good thing. **WRITE** **QUICK** for terms to agents and full description of the **"Ladies' Delight Ironing Board."**

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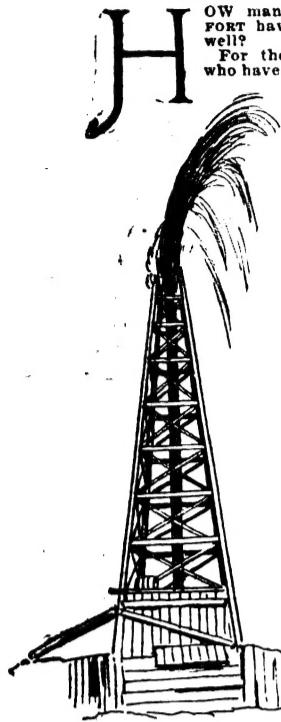
The strongest and purest Lye made. Unlike other Lye, it being a fine powder and packed in a can with removable lid, the contents are always ready for use. Will make the best perfumed Hard Soap in 20 minutes without boiling. It is the best for cleansing waste pipes, disinfecting sinks, closets, washing bottles, paints, trees, etc.

PEN

THE OIL FIELD.

BY CHAS. E. SPECK.

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OW many readers of COMFORT have ever seen an oil well?

For the many thousands who have not, I will give a short description of the Ohio Oil Field. The oil in this field is of a very dark color and of a somewhat disagreeable odor.

First in order is the derrick. This is built to a height of seventy-five feet; this being necessary as some of the drills are from fifty to sixty feet long.

To the rock the hole is six inches in diameter, after which it is reduced to four inches. Eleven hundred to fifteen hundred feet of solid rock is pierced by the drill before the oil sand—or more properly speaking, "Trenton Rock"—is reached.

This oil-bearing rock is pierced from twenty to sixty feet.

Before the drilling has

completed the well usually contains several hundred feet of oil, which very frequently flows from the mouth of the well.

The next in order is to shoot the well. This is accomplished by lowering eighty or one hundred quarts of nitro-glycerine—which is inclosed in a long tin tube—into the well. When this is done, and the rope withdrawn, a piece of iron, called the "go-devil" is dropped into the well. This causes the glycerine to explode with a "dull thud" which can be heard a great distance. In a few seconds the oil rushes from the mouth of the well with the force of a water-spout, hurling small pieces of rock hundreds of feet into the air. The oil spreads as it ascends, and has a very beautiful appearance. I have seen the oil rise fifty feet above the top of the derrick.

The well being completed, it is "connected up" and the oil runs into one or more tanks which usually holds 200 barrels. Should the well prove to be a "gusher," five hundred and eight hundred barrel tanks are used. When these tanks are full of the fluid, the oil is pumped to a pumping station in the district, from whence it is forced, through underground lines, by means of large pumps, to the main stations.

At these main stations the oil empties into large storage tanks which are made of iron and will hold from 30,000 to 36,000 barrels. From these stations the oil is pumped to Cleveland, Lima and Chicago. These pumping stations have a capacity of from 3,000 to 45,000 barrels per day. In twenty-four hours a local pumping station, with three pumps can force through a four inch line, a distance of thirty miles, 15,000 barrels of oil.

The handling of the nitro-glycerine used in shooting wells is a very dangerous occupation. Only a few weeks since, a glycerine factory, near Lima, Ohio, blew up, killing one man, and seriously injuring several others. Nothing, whatever, was found of the victim, except a few small bones which were found sticking in the back of one of the injured men. Large panes of plate glass were broken in windows, three miles from the scene of the catastrophe.

Sometimes a glycerine wagon, on which is loaded one hundred or two hundred quarts of glycerine, will jar in such a manner as to cause the glycerine to explode, when—presto change! there is nothing left but a large hole in the ground; driver, horses, wagon, all gone.

The men who handle nitro-glycerine, seem utterly oblivious of the fact that they are in constant danger of their lives.

There are many fortunes won and lost in the oil field. Sometimes a man will invest his all and, only, in the end, get a salt water well. One man invested every cent he possessed in the world, and after drilling to the required depth, the well was declared a "dry hole." He told them to drill five feet deeper. Before the drill had gone down three feet, oil was "struck" and that to such an extent, that the owner sold the well for \$10,000 cash on the grounds, and that too, in less than a quarter of an hour from the time he "struck oil."

A 5,000 barrel well—and there are many such wells—will yield its owner a monthly income of \$6,000.

The first oil well drilled in the Ohio field was in 1855, at Lima, since which time the number of wells drilled, will run up into the thousands, with a daily production of about 100,000 barrels.

The Standard Oil Company is the principal buyer of this large amount of oil. The wealth of this company is unknown. In one year they pay millions of dollars for oil, and their pay-roll for employees is over \$10,000,000 in the same time. Who can say that this is not a great industry?

Gas is obtained in the same manner as oil. Some wells produce 10,000,000 feet daily; others as low as 1,000 feet. It is used for fuel, both for cooking and heating purposes in the entire oil field. The price per stove varies from fifty cents to \$3.50 per month, according to locality and the quantity of the gas.

People who are now using it as fuel, dread the day when natural gas will be a memory.

HAPPENINGS.

It costs a Harvard College student anywhere from \$400 to \$5,000 a year to live.

A Russian count was brought to his death lately, by a pair of poisoned gloves prepared for him by the nihilists.

A vagrant negro was sold by the state law in Missouri last month for \$20. The buyer will be entitled to his services for one year.

A Viking ship from Norway is on her way to this country. She is modelled after the ship Liec. Erickson used to explore this country nine centuries ago.

Chicago was recently startled by the news that Carter Harrison had escaped from his cage. But it turned out that it was only a big, bald eagle, who was named for Chicago's mayor and who was striving to regain his freedom.

A negro fell headlong against an electric light dynamo in a Western city the other day, and knocked the belt off. He wasn't hurt but he instantaneously put out several hundred lights.

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals keeps an agent at the great Chicago Stockyards all the time, but there is little for him to do. The animals are slaughtered instantaneously, at the rate of about three a minute.

The telautograph is the latest invention, and effects the transmission, by wire, of a fac-simile handwriting, either in pen or pencil. Writings, sketches, musical notations and stenographic reports are, it is said, transmitted with equal facility.

Lightning struck a great steamer on Long Island Sound last March, and broke fourteen windows. Then, entering on the electric light wire, it tore up sheathing in the state-rooms, and frightened the passengers nearly out of their wits.

The new Postmaster-General has a plan for making the postmaster devote his whole time to Uncle Sam's mail. This is rather hard on country postmasters who have an average of a dozen letters a day, and who are obliged to combine the post-office with some other business.

The old Aztec race, once so powerful, has been exterminated from the face of the earth by a horrible massacre, under the sanction of President Diaz and the Mexican government. The remnant of this tribe was offered death with the only alternate of giving up their religion. They chose death—and got it.

The skeletons of a company of forty-three soldiers that have been missing since September, 1879, have just been found in a Colorado canyon. They were discovered by prospectors, and it is supposed they were massacred, as many of the skeletons were still in uniform. The remains of forty-five horses and three piles of guns were in the same gulch.

A fanatic preacher in lower Russia recently claimed the power to raise from the dead; and, with the consent of her parents, strangled a girl of 14 at the close of the sermon in order to demonstrate his pretended ability. Of course he could not restore the girl to life and after two hours' of prayers and exhortations, the parents turned the preacher over to the authorities.

A Jew who died in 1803 in Bessarabia, left a large fortune which his widow placed in the bank of England. It has been accumulating ever since and now amounts to \$300,000. An American girl, a Miss Humeric, is said to have proven her right to one-forty-fifth of this sum, and the remainder goes to a Jewish lady living at Ismail, at the mouth of the Danube river.

There is a good prospect of a railroad between Vancouver and Asia across Behring's Strait. The road has already been surveyed, and the cost is estimated at only \$23,000 a mile. The land survey terminates at Cape Prince of Wales, and at that point, the strait is only thirty-six and a half miles wide, with eight islands interspersed between the two shores. Cantilever bridges and pontoon will be used to connect these islands, and a stone break-water will be built to protect the piers from icebergs.

LITTLE NEW-YEAR.

BY SUSIE LEWIS.

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I was walking down Broad St., in the city of Richmond, Va., one afternoon, I came up with a police officer, watching a funeral procession pass. I was very sad and the gloomy sight only made me feel worse. Two weeks before I had lost my only child—a lovely little girl. God only knows how I missed the little clinging arms and the sound of the cooing voice.

I was aroused from my dreary reverie by the officer who bade me "good morning." We talked on common topics awhile, and then he said abruptly:

"Nearly five years ago I found on New Year's morning, right there," pointing to a stoop—"a little girl. I took her to headquarters and, as no one came for her, the sergeant let Mrs. Kent, a kind widow adopt her. Two days ago, Mrs. Kent died and 'Little New Year' is homeless once more." He paused, looking after the procession.

I was strangely affected by the officer's story. I asked him what had become of the child. He replied that he had taken it to his sister's; but she had many children of her own and didn't want her. I asked him to take me to see her.

We went down several streets, then entered a small house. A care-worn woman met us. The officer asked for the child. He told me while the lady was gone for her, that Mrs. Kent had called the child by the strange name of "New-Year."

Presently the lady came back with a fair little girl, who raised a pair of sad blue eyes to mine. I stooped and took the child in my arms and then resolved to take her home with me.

I told the officer I'd take her to my wife, and if she agreed we would keep her. When she saw her the little one was gathered to her heart. Ten years passed with hardly a break in our quiet life. We learned to love "little New-Year" as our own child. We tried to change her name, but the one Mrs. Kent had chosen clung to her. She was quiet and gentle with a kind of frail loveliness. Her eyes were blue as Heaven's own sky; her hair, pale gold.

Years rolled by and a young doctor came to me with his tale of love. I told him her history. How she had been found nameless and forsaken. I saw the struggle that was going on in his heart, and was silent. Suddenly on the stillness was heard the mournful throbbing of an organ. Little New Year's voice rose clear and sweet in a sad dreamy song. The strong man before me bent forward, listening eagerly. The song ceased. Douglas Lee stood up strong and handsome, with a smile on his firm lips. Grasping my hand, he went quietly from the room. Soon after I gave my little New Year flower away.

It was almost New Year again, and I went over to take dinner with "New-Year." I walked up the stone steps and entered without knocking. I started to enter the sitting-room, when Douglas came out with a white, drawn face. I fell back. He told me in a strange voice that his wife had been thrown from a buggy and hurt.

He led me to the darkened room. She was breathing softly. She did not seem to be in pain, only stunned. Her husband, with lines of agony on his white face, remained constantly by her side. Four days we watched every breath that came from the pale parted lips.

It was the last night of the old year. I stood watching the pale girlish face, framed in a mass of golden curls. Douglas knelt by the bed his finger on her wrist.

Suddenly on the still night rang the New Year chimes. Douglas started, but his eyes never left the still white face on the pillow. I looked down at it, weeping. The long silken lashes trembled on the white cheeks. The eyes opened; she looked at her husband and smiled; then the white lids fluttered back.

All was still for a few moments. A heavenly smile rippled over her face, and the little white hands were stretched out.

"Mother, mother," whispered the smiling lips. A half drawn sigh, the little hands dropped, and "little New-Year" had gone home.

THE BEST THING.

"The best thing yet!" That is the way a young man put it who made arrangements to work for B. F. Johnson & Co. of Richmond, Va. You can get further information by dropping them a card.

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EPILEPSY, ETC., permanently cured. Treatise, testimonial and

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We want local address prepared for circo, by ladies at home. Other

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THIS OUT, send to us with 15 cents in stamps, and

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Tricks, Fortune Telling Secrets, 6 new Puzzles, 12

Pastor Games, Languages of Flowers, and several other

things. All for only 15 cents in stamp. Send today and be happy.

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Look here, friend, do you suffer with Catarrh—are you

constantly hawking and spitting—have you a running from

the nose? If so, send a self-addressed stamped envelope

to the Coryza Remedy Co., 2006-9th Ave., New

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DEAR SIRS—My 500 addresses received. From

my 25 cent address in your Lightning Directory I

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Addresses scattered among publishers, manufac-

turers, etc., are arriving daily, on valuable parcels of

mail, from all parts of the World. J. A. WARE.

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Those born in May should wear the emerald.

The lucky days for May are the 3rd, 6th, 9th, 11th, 14th, 20th, 23rd and 25th; the unlucky ones are the 4th, 5th, 8th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 24th, 29th and 30th. The 1st, 2nd, 7th, 13th, 16th, 19th, 27th and 28th are pronounced doubtful by a famous astrologer, and the few remaining days in the month are not of any particular importance either way.

To-day COMFORT has a fellow-feeling with the United States. The youngest nation in the world is the centre of observation, as the cleverest and the most powerful country; and COMFORT, the youngest of her great papers, leads them all in popularity and circulation. Appreciation is sweet to us all, and Columbia and COMFORT are both tasting it this year.

The Prize Puzzle Department begun in this issue cannot but furnish an entertainment both pleasing and profitable in the million and a quarter homes where COMFORT is now a constant visitor.

It taxes the skill, talent, and ingenuity; and, as it is our intention to increase the cash prizes, those who fail to enter the charmed circle in this contest will be sharpening their wits for future ones.

One of the popular features of this department is that old and young—the entire family—can participate.

With the spring of the year, the hearts of all people turn to out-of-door pleasures. At this season all lovers of flowers long to see the first green sprouts, and in the May sunshine watch them grow to blossoming time. Hundreds of thousands of our readers live in the country, and to them, with the aid of the many florists who speak to them in the columns of our paper, and whose books and catalogues may be obtained free, there is no difficulty in knowing what seeds to sow, when to sow them, and how to tend them. Nor is any one of the thousands of city readers deterred from a share in this spring pleasure; for window boxes are inexpensive, and seeds for them as easily obtained.

We hope no COMFORT reader will be without some green, flowering thing to tend, for flowers are a cultivation of the mind and heart as well as a pleasure to the eye.

After several years of preparation, during which it has been one of the most interesting topics of the time, the World's Fair is at last open. It is too early to speak of the exhibits, but our readers may feel sure that COMFORT will be well represented on the ground, and that every month they will be provided with interesting reading from Chicago. Though too early to speak with detail of the Fair, it is a satisfactory matter of pride to every American that the buildings are pronounced by men who have traveled the world over to be in style, taste, and construction the most magnificent specimens of architecture that have ever been seen. At last the United States, so often accused of being tawdry and cheap in such matters, has surpassed all other countries, and commanded the respect of the world, for the liberality of her plans, and the admirable manner in which they have been executed.

The World's Fair is more than a mere celebration, it is an event of international importance, a congress where the nations of the globe are to meet, and their achievements be compared; where those who take a proper interest in their own country, and in the progress of other nations, can study the comparative condition of the industries and the arts in the civilized world.

The interest which other nations (even such a remote and reticent government as Japan whose artisans have for three years had no other interest so much at heart as their representation at the Fair) take in this exhibit, should inspire every patriotic American with a determination to visit Chicago. It may seem

like an expense hard to meet, but those who miss it will hereafter reproach themselves severely. In the meantime, every possible arrangement will be made to enable those of moderate means to go to the Fair, and the expense of the trip will be a profitable investment for all who appreciate for themselves and their children the educational advantages of such a visit.

It is the hero's reward that he shall be remembered. Memorial Day is no longer a day of mourning. The generation whose hearts were broken by the horrors of the war has been soothed by time, and when Decoration Day comes round it is pride and not tears that it arouses. The ceremony of gratitude which the nation has decreed its heroes is a beautiful one. Once every year, in May, the country pauses in its hurry and selfish plans, and, on the day set apart, thinks with gratitude of those who fought and died so bravely. We may not believe in war, but we cannot but respect the men, who forgetful of self, died for an idea, and when the tiny flags wave in the spring winds, and bright flowers proclaim to all, "here lies a hero," we feel that they who have died for us have won what is denied the great majority—the boon of being unforgotten.

AT last the Independence Bell has safely made its journey from the hall in the Old State House at Philadelphia to its place in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania Building at the World's Fair. Four days were consumed in its passage, and its progress was like a triumphal march. On April 25th, the old bell, which was first rung in 1753, started for Chicago. It was escorted

by a distinguished party, including Mayor Edwin S. Stewart, and other officials of the City of Philadelphia. A special car had been built for its transportation, and it was profusely decorated with the national colors. The route taken was a circuitous one to enable the residents of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to see the bell and cheer it lustily, which they did. The train made its first stop at Harrisburg, proceeding thence to Sunbury, Williamsport, Titusville, Oil City, and Franklin, stopping from one to five hours at each place, and awakening great enthusiasm everywhere. It will be one of the most interesting of the Pennsylvania exhibits. No child with an active imagination will look up at the now silent bell—through one side of which extends a long crack, and whereon are the prophetic words, "proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof," words which were cast there nearly 25 years before freedom came to the States—without recalling that it was one of them, a child, that gave the signal for the first peal of the bell when independence was proclaimed. No one can look upon this bell, which on that great day for two hours rang out the decree of freedom, without feeling a deep stirring emotion of patriotism, without appreciating his duty to the land for which our fathers strove and dared so much. It will be one of the lessons of the Fair, and it is a lesson which Americans to-day, secure in prosperity, thinking more of gain than of their duty as citizens, sorely need to impress upon their children. Every generation until the present one has sacrificed something for patriotism. Let the holy love of country not die in this generation of peace. And there is no better way to rekindle it than by emphasizing the heroism of the men who boldly staked their lives and possessions when the Independence Bell rang out national liberty.

WORLD'S FAIR ITEMS.

The women of England will have a notable display of pottery.

A complete English railway train will be exhibited at the World's Fair.

A coal mine with both an exterior and interior view, will be part of Iowa's exhibit.

New South Wales (Australia) will have a large marine exhibit in the Fisheries' building.

A real, genuine convent with cells, stone mullions and courtyard, will be a feature of the Fair.

Hiawatha bearing Minnehaha across a turbulent river will be among the statuary from Minnesota.

A collection of curios that once belonged to Prince Joseph Bonaparte will be in the Woman's Department.

Mrs. Roth of Illinois, the champion woman farmer of that State, is to have a grand display of farm products.

Queen Victoria has consented to loan the famous painting known as "The Roll-call" from her palace at Osborne.

A colony from Lapland are to be at the Exposition and will live in huts patterned after their native dwellings.

A Mahogany vestibule train, 400 feet long and equipped in the highest style of modern art, will be exhibited by the Canadian Pacific R. R.

East India is to have a tea house where natives, dressed according to Eastern fashion, will serve tea grown in India, in native cups and saucers.

A model of the old cliff-dweller's houses in New Mexico has been constructed by an enterprising archaeologist, and will stand near Prof. Putnam's Indian Camp.

The old wagon which saw four year's service with Sherman's army, and has since reposed peacefully in the National Museum at Washington, will be on exhibition.

A collection of queer hunting and fishing outfitts from Alaska and the Aleutian islands will be a feature of the great historical exhibit in the transportation building.

English women are greatly interested in the World's Fair. A fine display will be made by the Royal School of Art Needlework. Among other things will be a cushion designed by Princess Louise.

Germany's exhibit, according to a conservative estimate, will be worth 40,000,000 marks, or over \$10,000,000. It will occupy space in nine different buildings outside of the German building and the Krupp Gun display.

The Krupp guns will occupy a building 85 feet by 200. The biggest gun weighs 122 tons and fires an explosive shell weighing 2,300 pounds a distance of sixteen miles. The value of the entire display will be about \$1,000,000.

About Needles and Thread.

Copyright, 1893, by The Gannett & Morse Concern.

NECCESSITY is indeed the mother of invention. No sooner does man see that he needs something than instinct seems to teach him to overcome the necessity and make what he wants.

When Adam and Eve discovered that they were naked in the Garden of Eden, they immediately set about making themselves garments from fig leaves. Doubtless they took a thorn and the fibre of some tree to sew the leaves together and fashion a necessary garment.

The needle which my lady uses to-day is a most elaborate little implement, in spite of its size and simple appearance, but it serves its purpose no better than did the similar implement of bone, ivory, stone, bronze, or wood, which has been in use since prehistoric times.

Needles of bone with eyes in them were found in the reindeer caves of France, and in the prehistoric lake dwellings of Central Europe.

Ancient bone needles three and one-half inches long were found in the Egyptian ruins, and in the museum at Naples are surgeon needles taken from Pompeii.

The most savage tribes have their needles; some of them use a sort of awl to punch the hole and then push the thread through. This was in all probability the method employed by the first men. Clothing having been originally made from the skins of beasts, the only sewing required was to join the skins at the edges.

The Feugians still sew in the above way and make a knot at each stitch.

The Kaffirs of Central Africa have a needle of iron with a constriction under the pin-like head about which they tie the thread instead of putting it through an eye.

Steel needles were first made in Nuremberg in 1370, at which time artisans there were cleverer than anywhere in the world.

In the middle of the 16th century the industry was introduced into England under Queen Elizabeth, but the steel had to be imported from Germany and Spain as were likewise many of the workmen.

Needles in that time must have been of fine quality if one may judge from the needlework and embroidery which have been preserved.

Redditch, in Worcestershire, near Birmingham, England, is now the centre of such trade. There, and in the neighboring villages, 10,000 persons are employed in the work, and the weekly production amounted in 1865 to 70,000,000, since which time it has much increased. The best needles made outside of England come from Aix-la-Chapelle, but they do not rival those of English make.

Simple as the needle looks its manufacture is one of great elaborateness. Each needle goes through twenty-two processes. The wire had to be cut, straightened, pointed. For many years this last operation was done by hand, and with some danger to the workmen from the steel dust. The eyes have to be flattened, a mark made for the hole; it has to be punched, polished, and soft finished. The needles have then to be tempered, sorted; the eyes to be blued or gilded, then finished. The needle has then to be polished, cleaned, sorted, and packed. Many of these processes require more than one act, and no two of them can be done at the same time. Much of the handling cannot be accomplished by machinery.

A little idea of the elaborateness of this manufacture can be understood from facts like these: Five and one-half pounds of ordinary wire costs \$70. It makes 74,000 needles, worth, when finished, \$1,000.

The early manufacture of thread seems to be shrouded in mystery.

Prehistoric man had, of course, some substitute for thread. He doubtless used vegetable fibre of some sort.

The progress of the making of thread from that time to the present day has been so steady and so slow that no special record of it seems to have been kept.

Paisley, near Glasgow, in Scotland, is the present centre of the manufacture of thread.

The first thread mill in America was the Slater mill at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, which is still standing.

There are thread mills all through Rhode Island and Connecticut, but it is a fact that English capital controls many of them. In truth, it has been stated that one-half the thread mills in the whole world are controlled by manufacturers at Paisley.

The Phoenicians and the Egyptians were proficient in the making of fine linens for the sewing of which they must have had fine threads. Even the Children of Israel had mastered the manufacture of flax fibre.

But, 'though the maids of Athens and the Roman ladies were skillful with the needle, Ireland and Scotland have in latter days surpassed them.'

Among the most famous thread made in modern times the "Bargaren thread," made at Johnstone, still has a place. The first manufacture of this thread has rather a romantic history. In the early part of the 17th century John Shaw, the laird of Renfrewshire, had a daughter, Christian, who conceived the idea of manufacturing into thread the linen yarn which she spun. As she had to do the entire work with her own hands, her first attempt was necessarily on a small scale. She bleached the material on a large slate placed in the window of her home. This slate is still preserved by the firm which to this day manufactures the thread first made by the daughter of the laird of Bargaren, whose name it still bears and whose coat-of-arms was once its trademark.

At that time thread was made by machinery in Holland, and a little later the secrets of its manufacture were brought to Scotland. But the industry of Christian Shaw made the fortune of her impoverished but noble family.

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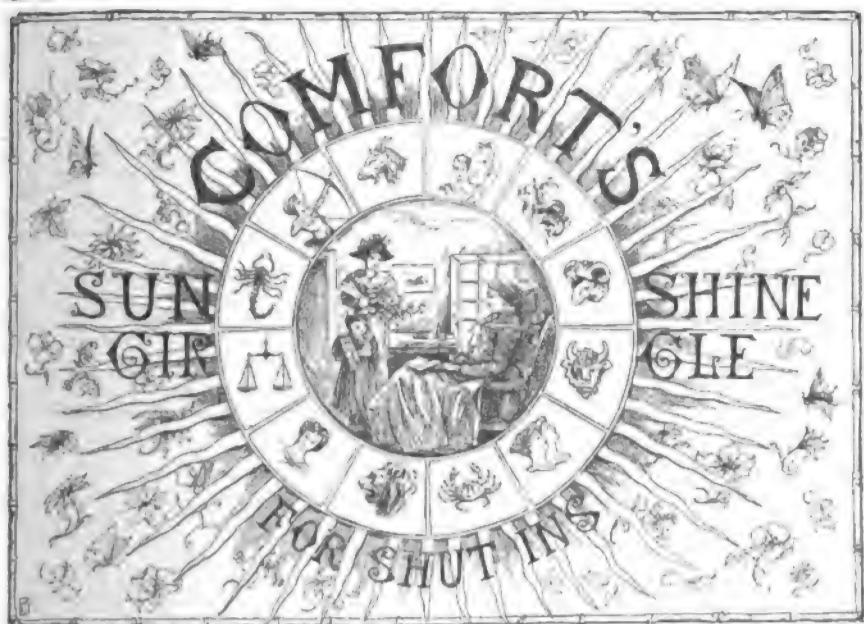
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Every Shut-In who will get up a club of five or more yearly subscribers for COMFORT at twenty-five cents apiece, may send us ten cents for each subscriber, and keep the other fifteen for herself.

The only condition given is that you must furnish satisfactory proof that you are a Shut-In. Get your physician and clergymen, or two other responsible persons, to sign a statement saying they have known you (and how long), that you are an invalid, unable to work, and that you properly belong to the Shut-In Circle.

No club will be received of less than five subscribers, and these must all be sent at one time, together with the amount necessary for the club.

Money may be sent by money-order, postal-note, check, draft, registered-letter, or in postage stamps. Never send money loose in a letter.

Try among your friends, neighbors and relatives. Your children at school or in factories, or your servant-girls among their friends can bring you names of new subscribers. Take it up seriously, as a matter of business, and you will succeed.

All correspondence for this department should be directed to Sunshine Circle, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

EAR FRIENDS:
I wish first of all to call your attention to the suggestive and beautifully appropriate heading which our artist has designed for the SUNSHINE CIRCLE. What more delightful than the rays of the sun which dispel the darkness, and carry with their cheering beams life and joy?

You will observe that each month is represented by certain signs, which are supposed to denote the annual path of the sun through the stars. In the grand old cathedral at Cologne in one of the windows these signs of the zodiac are pictured, each one with its attendant angel.

Let us take this thought, then, from our beautiful heading: Every month may have its clouds, but over all the sun is ever shining, and over every trial awaits an angel of light ready to bless us with his presence if we open wide the doors and windows of our hearts and let him in.

"But all God's angels come to us disguised; Sorrow and sickness, poverty and death, One after other lift their frowning masks, And we behold the seraph's face beneath."

As I read your letters I cannot tell you how much my heart goes out to you in love and sympathy. There are many things I should like to say to you, but I wish to give as much space as possible to your letters. This is really the medium through which you can become acquainted with each other. I introduce you, and then leave you to entertain each other, and give through personal correspondence words of comfort and good cheer. There is no surer way of helping yourself than by helping others. I believe no word, no act of kindness is ever lost, but that it will surely return to its giver with interest some day.

I am very much interested in the really generous offer which the publishers of COMFORT have made you, for I should think by its means every one of you might earn some money. Surely, any of your relatives or friends will be glad to aid you, and as every subscriber to COMFORT means fifteen cents to you, you may be able to get together a good little sum. But you must remember not to send less than five names at one time, and to send the money, ten cents for each name, by postage stamps, postal order, check, or registered letter to insure its safety.

It is now quite the fashion for women to belong to clubs. I know women who belong to half a dozen different ones. Perhaps you who are prevented by ill health from joining these social circles sometimes feel a pang of envy, but did you never think there is a chance even for you to enroll yourselves as club members?

Look over the pages of COMFORT and see what you find there.

First of all you belong to the SUNSHINE CIRCLE—a delightful club through which you can have much social intercourse without stirring from your room. Next, you may, if you choose, join the Busy Bees of COMFORT, in which circle \$100 in cash prizes are offered, and you who have skillful fingers may come in for a share of that prize. Again, there is the PRIZE PUZZLE CLUB. Turn to that page and see if you do not think it might help you to pass away some weary hours if you became interested in solving the very entertaining puzzles you will find there. Perhaps you never tried to get out a puzzle, and think you cannot do it, but if you read carefully the directions given in this number, and study over it a little, you will be surprised to find how soon you can learn, and how interested you will become.

I cannot take up the valuable space we want for letters in telling you the conditions for joining these clubs, or the prizes you will have a chance to win, but I do earnestly recommend you to read for yourself and join, if possible, both these clubs, as I am sure you will find yourself a gainer by it in some way.

Now I will give you a few extracts from the many interesting letters which I have received.

W. H. WILCOX, Ipswich, Mass. Box 28 writes:

I WOULD like to extend through the columns of COMFORT an invitation for all of you who wish letters from Christian friends to write to me. I can agree to answer all letters sent me promptly.

In this work I shall have the aid of one or two Christian sisters. My sympathy and prayers are with you all, and I am praying that the Master may use me to bring a little light to some suffering one."

C. SLOAN, Gallatin, Mo., writes:

"I have been a Shut-In for two years, and have been confined to the bed most of the time. I am fourteen years old. Some kind friend is sending me COMFORT, for which I am very thankful. I have had numerous papers from other cities, but in my opinion COMFORT outstrips them all. Many of my boy friends come in and ask me, 'Don't you get awful tired lying down all the time?' Certainly, I wish I could get out in the pure air and have a good time, but, thinks I, it is not the Lord's will, for some reason or other, that I should be well, and then I drop the matter. I get tired sometimes, but then I can do lots to pass off time. I can paint, sew and read, and do many things I would not do if I was well. Dear sisters, if any of you have any old books or papers you do not want please send them to me and I will gladly pay postage on them."

I think all the Shut-Ins will be glad to welcome this dear boy, who is evidently bearing his trials so bravely, into the SUNSHINE CIRCLE; and I trust he will be remembered in his request for books. It is beautiful to take sickness in such a spirit as his letter manifests.

ELIJAH WALDRIDGE, Moscow, Polk Co., Texas, writes: "Is there room for one more suffering invalid to join your number? I have been paralyzed for nearly four years, and have not walked a step even with crutches, but my younger brother hauls me in a little wagon. I am twelve years old. I have not been to school but three months since I have been paralyzed, but my sisters teach me at home. My sister takes COMFORT and reads it to me, and I enjoy it very much. I should like to correspond with any of the Shut-Ins. I would be glad of reading, or anything ornamental."

Would it not be pleasant for these two last writers to correspond together. The SUNSHINE CIRCLE will be glad to be the means of sending some added rays of light into these young lives so early clouded with sorrow.

THOMAS BUNTER, Stump Knob, Johnson Co., Tenn., writes:

"I thank you once more for the kind interest you have taken in me. I have received nearly a cart-load of reading matter, nearly all religious literature. Now, dear Cousins, we Shut-Ins are ever seeking for something to amuse our minds, and we often find it in something quite different from a sermon. A poor sufferer never comes nearer forgetting his pains than when indulging in a hearty laugh. I received from different friends hundreds of copies of papers all of the same issue. Don't think I am ungrateful, but really the stamps that mailed those papers would have paid for many books or papers that would have cheered the sad and gloomy heart of your Shut-In friend."

I have given this letter in full because I think it is needed. It is well for us to be reminded that invalids need diversion and amusement even more than they who are able to mix with the outside world.

ANNA MCMANIS, Rushville, Indiana, Box 309, writes:

"I received a copy of COMFORT this winter and was at once attracted to the department for Shut-Ins. I have been a Shut-In for many weary years. Oh, how I have suffered! But I see I am not alone in my suffering, and with deep sympathy my heart goes out to all these suffering ones. I would like letters or papers, or anything that would make the time pass pleasantly. Hope I will hear from some of the readers of COMFORT soon. Let us ask the Lord to bless us and give us patience to bear this weary life."

AMANDA DECKER, Latham, Pike Co., Ohio, writes:

"It is now more than eight years since I lost my health, and what I have suffered in those years is beyond the power of tongue to tell. When my health broke down I had never had the advantages of schooling, so I turned my attention to books. I also learned to do many kinds of fancy work which afforded pleasant pastime. Besides this, I have knit and sold many dollars worth of fancy mittens, wristlets and lace, which helped to supply the necessities of life, and thus I have learned that God never takes one thing away that something else is not given. I am confined almost entirely to my reclining chair, though I do what little work I can, for I find the more useful I can make myself the more enjoyment there is in living. Sometimes, when suffering much, I became impatient and cross, but this always makes me so unhappy I am trying hard to overcome that tendency. Cheer up, dear friends, and let us make the best of our lives as they are, and prepare for that home beyond this vale of tears where suffering and sorrow is no more. Will some of the readers write to me?"

This beautiful letter reminds me of some good words by a German writer, which I will quote: "It is not for me who am ignorant and blind to prescribe what measure of health is fit for me. If I cannot extend the sphere of my activity I will, at least, endeavor by Thy grace not to neglect anything by which I can be useful. Far from me be all impatience and peevishness. I will endeavor to lessen the cares of my friends for me, and express to them my gratitude for all the concern they show me. The little good I can do to them."

zeal of which I am capable. Though weak, I am not entirely destitute of strength; and in the exertion of my remaining strength I shall not be wholly useless."

Mrs. D. ROSE, Hamilton, New York, Box 126, writes:

"I have been an interested reader of COMFORT for nearly a year and think very highly of it, especially the column devoted to Shut-Ins, which has helped many of us invalids to pass hours that otherwise would be very dreary. It seems a way opened to make new and true friends. I hope it will long be continued. I have a stamping pattern of Mrs. Cleveland's head, 8 1/2 by 6 1/2, which I would be pleased to send to any Shut-In who will send four cents for postage. I have many other patterns if they wish them. I have been an entire Shut-In for a year, and I suffer very much from fear of death. Are any of the others thus troubled? I wish to get an honest girl to come and live with me to do our work; one that would appreciate a good home and kindness. Any one wishing to know particulars please write."

I will say for the consolation of this sufferer, that I have known of three devoted Christian women who had the same dread of death, and who each when her time came, departed in peace. A hospital nurse once told me that it had been a great consolation to her to see how easily most of the patients met the "King of Terrors." If, however, the dread is of the unknown future, let me offer these lines for thought:

"To die! it is to rise
To fairer, brighter skies,
Where death no more shall his dread harvest
reap;

To soar on angel wings
Where life immortal springs,
For so He giveth His beloved sleep."

Mrs. L. A. MARTIN, Desdemona, Eastland Co., Texas, writes thanking the kind readers of COMFORT for their many sympathetic letters, silk scraps, and reading matter. She would most gladly have granted each request for lace or knitting but has been very ill.

BERTHA ZOELLER, 1937 W. Market St., Louisville, Ky., is a Shut-In of 27 years. Would like scraps of any kind, letters, or reading matter.

MARY W. PATTEN, Forest, Clinton Co., N. Y., would like reading matter or letters.

NINA HYER, Rockdale, N. Y., Box 54, would like a block ten inches square in crazy work for her "Comfort" quilt made of cotton goods, or a worsted piece three inches square for a slumber robe; has been an invalid twenty years.

Cousin WEE WEE has sent reading matter to one of the Shut-Ins in whom she was interested, and learned afterward the address was not given correctly. Will the Shut-Ins be very particular to give correct address, clearly written.

Mrs. H. W. BROWN, Kinde, Huron Co., Mich., Box 11, thanks the friends who remembered her at Christmas. She is better, but not able to sit up much.

F. O. CALDWELL, Washington, Kansas, Box 172, writes:

"I have been doing a little missionary work among Shut-Ins, and am willing to treat two of the Shut-Ins in each State gratis; that is, I will furnish the medicine and advice, and deliver both to the patient free of charge. Those accepting this offer will please give me a history of their case. I must, however, be at liberty to withdraw this offer when it becomes too much of a drain upon my time and purse."

And now we must leave some letters over for another time. Please do not be discouraged if your letters are not always printed, but continue to write and your turn will come in time. Take this thought for the coming month:

"Art thou low and sick and dreary,
Is thy spirit worn and weary
With its fight against the ills of life that seem
to fill the air?

Gird thy loins once more and try—
The stout heart wins the victory,
But never, dark despair."

And, remember, you have always the sympathy of SISTER MARGARET.

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Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost you a dollar bought at a store.

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This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you order ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer. Three lots for 65c, five for \$1.00. **BEST WAY.** We send ONE of the above complete assortments FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months subscription to "COMFORT," the best Home Monthly now published, or if you send for more than one lot as above, "COMFORT" goes for one year.

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19 Great Sleight of hand **Tricks**, 30 **Money-Making Secrets**, Collection of Cooking **Receipts**, Toilet Secrets, how to become beautiful, Medical Adviser: **How to Get Rich**, Costly Secrets (one of which cost us \$100), Telegraph Code, Cleveland Puzzle, Secrets for Lovers, how to win and woo, including flirtations, Magic Number **Mystery**, Seven Wonders of the World, 10 New **Games**, map of U. S., Minstrel **Jokes**, 25 Portraits of **noted beauties and pretty girls** (French and English), a thrilling story, **"The Parkville Ghost,"** 7 Wonderful Experiments, Schedule of Noted Historical Events, **Dreams**, how to tell what they mean, Deaf and Dumb Alphabet, Long Pathway Puzzle, Star Puzzle, Great Triple Prize Acrobatic, Four Great Rebus Story of **"Peek's Bad Boy and his Pa,"** all about a **Kiss**, and collection of jokes with full directions, **Set of Dominos**, in compact and handy form, **Chess Board**, with men, **Checker Board**, with men, **Fox and Geese Board**, with men, **Nine Men Morris Board**, with men, **Reindeer Secrets of Varietypromising**. This secret is worth one hundred dollars.

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All the above mentioned **Secrets, Games, Songs, Puzzles, Stories**, etc., will be sent in one package, together with **Cheerful Moments**, **Schedules, Pantomimes**, etc., for 3 months, for only 25 cents. We will forfeit \$20 if we do not send as represented. This **Stupendous Offer** is to introduce our paper. Do not delay. This may not appear again. Send us 25 cents in stamps, silver, postal note, money order, or registered letter. **"Big Novelty Combination."**

WHAT'S COURTING' HAT, Handkerchief, Parasol, Girdle, Whip and Fan Pictures, **Love Letters**, **Bashtfulness and Timidity**, and how to overcome them, **The Fifteen Different Versions of Love, Six of the Richest Comic, Fun and Acquaintance** (read only when heated), **Husband's and**

DOCTORS DUMFOUNDED.

A GREATER DISCOVERY THAN ELECTRICITY.

As it is: Magic it Restores Hopeless, Bedridden Sufferers. Endorsed by Board of Health.

"Worth Ten Thousand Dollars a Box."

From San Bernardino, California.

Mr M Logsdon of this place has taken the agency for the sale of a most wonderful new discovery the use of which by many of our well known citizens has caused them to doubt the days of miracles are over. So astonishing have been its effects in restoring helpless, bedridden invalids who have been given up by doctors as incurable, to perfect health and vigor that it has been pronounced a greater discovery than electricity. Among these people are A J Felter the attorney at law, ex-judge A D Boran, John T. Knox justice of the peace, Mrs J O Carter, T W. McIntosh, Mrs. J. G. Sloan L E Beckley, and a host of others.

The article in question is called Oxien, and is the discovery and sole property of the Giant Oxie Company of Augusta Maine. Every man of prominence of that city, including the mayor postmaster city physician, bank officials, and heads of the municipal government has publicly endorsed it as being all that its owners claim for it.

Analysis and pionic test show that this discovery differs from anything and everything heretofore placed upon the market. While it is neither a stimulant tonic or medicine, it accomplishes what all these are recommended to do but so seldom achieve.

Judging from its marvelous effects, it appears to be the only real nerve blood, and brain food and agent for imparting new vital power that has yet been discovered. In case after case where the efforts of the best physicians and the use of remedies heretofore relied upon, have failed utterly this wonderful discovery has given quick relief and permanent cure. Surrounded by such evidences of its genuine worth and its unequalled power to combat and overcome the gravest complications as well as the lesser ills from which they spring, and which humanity is so prone to neglect at the outset, this discovery holds out hope to every sufferer. From the mouths of thankful, willing witnesses, proof is daily received of its matchless health-giving, strength renewing qualities.

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come words of the strongest praise. "My two daughters, myself, and also my sister, as well as many others in town have used the Giant Nerve Food, Oxien. It is the best medicine for ladies and girls I ever saw, giving ease, strength, and comfort; just building them up."

And from Miss Rosa Velasquez the following: "For thirteen years I suffered with catarrh, but tried this Wonderful Food for the Nerves, and to my great joy am now perfectly well."

The attorney at law, A. J. Felter, Esq., says that after using but one box of Oxien he found great relief from kidney trouble, from which he had been a sufferer for several years, and Mrs. M. L. Armentrout writes to the discoverers of this remedy: "Three years ago a high trestle fell on my little boy, injuring his spine. A large abscess formed, and one leg was also affected. Doctors gave him no relief, merely placing him in plaster of Paris jackets and giving him opiates. One day his grandmother gave him Oxien. He rapidly grew better, slept soundly nights, his leg and back mended, and in one month's time he was a stout, healthy boy, running about the place. Oxien did it."

Mr. Logsdon himself first had his attention called to the wonderful curative powers of Oxien by the results it achieved in his own case, building up his constitution after severe and prolonged attacks of the Grippe, for which doctors had failed to afford any relief.

The marvellous success which followed its use by other members of his family led to his recommending it to every sufferer that he could reach, and the joy and thanksgiving that has gone with it to every invalid and every home well justifies his statement that the worth of Oxien is "ten thousand dollars a box." Yet it is sold at the very reasonable price of a dollar for a Giant box, or a smaller trial size, at thirty-five cents. While the remedy is within the reach of all, its results render it a priceless boon to the suffering.

From its effects right in our own community it is not too much to say that Oxien brings to the weak, weary, and infirm, the vigor of youth, and banishes suffering as if by magic.

We are pleased to announce that for the next 30 days the Giant Oxie Co., will send free pre-paid samples of Oxien to all who desire to give it a trial.

FROM POVERTY TO RICHES.

One agent says: "In half an hour I have sold ten dollars' worth (or at the rate of thirty thousand dollars a year profit) and still they are coming for it. The Oxien Electric Porous Plasters are doing wonders here."

Not a day passes but what scores of letters like the foregoing reach us from grateful men and women whose lives have been saved by our Wonderful Food for the Nerves, Oxien.

Every hour brings fresh proof that Oxien is the Food which Scientists have searched for; the MEDICINE which doctors have longed for; and the RELIEF which hopeless sufferers have prayed for. It gives new life, new hope, new power, new vigor, new strength, new happiness.

It is a Godsend for the weak and weary; and a Godsend to thousands of Home Workers who are making fortunes introducing it to their friends and neighbors. Write at once for free samples and terms to agents and secure your territory.

50 cts. If you will hand to three friends or neighbors the new booklets which we will mail you FREE, we will send you in advance a 50 cent cash certificate with FACTS which will help you, your wife, son, or daughter, to easily part of the TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS we are giving away this year in premiums. Write us at once for free samples and facts about our Wonderful Discovery, and for our references.

GIANT OXIE CO., 124 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

WORLD'S FAIR ITEMS.

All sorts of military trappings and paraphernalia of war will be exhibited in the Governmental department. Papier-mâché figures, dressed to represent every rank of the United States soldier from 1776 down to '93, will also be shown.

The famous butter statue of the Centennial is to be rivalled this year by a group of three cows and a calf, done in corn, and corn husks. A red cow is done in corn-cobs. A white one is made of husks, and a brindle one and calf are made of nutlet heads.

A genuine Creole kitchen is being planned by Louisiana women for their State building. In it they will show many styles of Southern cookery, among the rest, what can be done with okra. The room will be presided over by pretty young women.

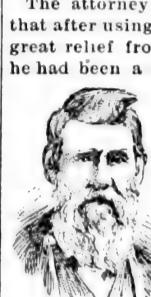
The women of Germany have entered into the spirit of the Exposition with wonderful zeal. The Empress and nearly all the feminine members of her family are preparing articles for it. The work of German women will be shown, so far as possible, in the German building.

Only two out of twenty-five British shipbuilders will be represented in the marine exhibits section, which is in charge of Lieut. A. C. Baker, United States Navy. The entire exhibit will show in miniature practically every type of vessel built for pleasure, commerce or war, including the best ships of all the great naval powers of Europe. They will afford a good comparison between American and foreign navies.

Montana is to furnish one of the horrors of the Fair. It is a deck of cards, made from human skin and captured with Geronimo, the Apache chief, who terrorized Arizona and New Mexico several years ago. The deck is complete with the exception of the eight, nine and ten spot cards. All the designs are copied from regular cards and are painted in crude colors. The owner of these grawsome reliques is Capt. Charles G. Ayres, of the 10th U. S. Cavalry, who captured them himself.

The Boston Navy-yard is to send a novel contribution. This consists of eleven models of United States men-of-war, built upon a scale of

one-quarter inch to one foot. First of these is that of the Bancroft, a cruiser for cadet practice; Miantonomoh, a monitor; Yorktown, a gunboat; Petrel, a gunboat; Maine, an armored cruiser; Monterey, a coast-defense monitor; Baltimore, a cruiser; Vesuvius, the new dynamite cruiser; Newark, a cruiser; New York, a cruiser, and the Kearsarge, the old revolutionary battleship. The models are built of wood and white metal and encased in glass. Every part is made with extreme nicety, and in exact proportion. They range in length from six to ten feet and cost more than \$5,000.



A. J. FELTER, ESQ.

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\$150 Top Buggy... \$75.00
\$100 Top Buggy... \$52.50
\$85 Top Buggy... \$40.00
\$85 Spring Wagon... \$43.50
\$10 Single Harness... \$5.25
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ANTI-OBESE PILLS REDUCE STOMACHIC SURGERY—1000 A WEEK; CAUSE NO SICKNESS; GUARANTEED HERBACEOUS. PARTICULARS (SEALED), 40. HERBAL REMEDIES CO. B. T. PHILLIPS, PH.

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FREE. IF YOU SEND 10 CENTS TO HAVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS INSERTED IN OUR DIRECTORY, WHICH GOES TO OVER 1000 PUBLISHERS, IMPORTERS, ETC., WHO WILL SEND YOU SAMPLES OF NEW GOODS, LATEST BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, CATALOGUES, ETC., YOU WILL GET A BIG MAIL DAILY. ALL AT A COST OF 10 CENTS. ADDRESS W. S. EVERETT & CO., PUBLISHERS, LYNN, MASS.

DR. LA FIEUS' FRENCH MOUSTACHE VIGOR GROWS A BEARD ON THE SMOOTHEST FACE IN 20 DAYS OR MONEY REFUNDED. NEVER FAILS. SENT ON RECEIPT OF 50c STAMPS OR SILVER. 3 PACKAGES FOR \$1. BEWARE OF CHEAP IMITATIONS; NONE OTHER IS GENUINE. SEND FOR CIRCULAR. ADDRESS T. W. SAXE, BOX 122, WARSAW, INDIANA.

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ONE FREE IF YOU ORDER FIVE. CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO US AND WE WILL SEND YOU THIS BEAUTIFUL 18K GOLD PLATED WATCH BY EXPRESS, SUBJECT TO FULL EXAMINATION, AND IF YOU DO NOT FIND IT EQUAL TO ANY WATCH RETAILED AT 4 TIMES THE PRICE, WE ASK YOU NEED NOT PAY ONE CENT. OTHERWISE PAY THE EXPRESS FEE OF \$8.87 AND THE WATCH IS YOURS.

THE MOVEMENT IS A JEWELLED QUICK TRAIN, WITH OIL-TEMPERED PINION AND HAIR SPRING. IT IS A DURABLE AND ACCURATE TIMEKEEPER. THE CASE IS MADE OF SOLID NICKEL HEAVILY ENGRAVED (CUT SHOWS BACK OF CASE) OVER WHICH IS PLATED 18K GOLD. FULLY WARRANTED. IN CARRYING THIS WATCH YOU HAVE THE CREDIT OF OWNING A

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WILL PLAY 100 TUNES

TO INTRODUCE THEM, ONE IN EVERY COUNTY OR TOWN FURNISHED RELIABLE PERSONS (EITHER SEX) WHO WILL PROMISE TO SHOW IT. EXCELSIOR MUSIC BOX CO., P. O. BOX 2126, N. Y. CITY.

WE MANUFACTURE THE CELEBRATED MUSICAL BOX AND CLOCK COMBINED, ARRANGED TO PLAY DIFFERENT TUNES EVERY TIME CLOCK STRIKES, OR CAN BE USED INDEPENDENT OF CLOCK, SAME AS AN ORDINARY MUSIC BOX.

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FOR INSTANCE, RARE 1853 QUARTER OR HALF-DOLLARS ARE WORTH FROM \$3 TO \$25 EACH;

RARE 1856 OR 1891 CENTS ARE WORTH \$20 EACH;

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1860 CENTS ARE WORTH \$25 EACH;

1861 CENTS ARE WORTH \$30 EACH;

1862 CENTS ARE WORTH \$40 EACH;

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DAME FASHION.

cause it is the Columbian year, styles in dress, in house-furnishing, in art, and in everything, are distinctively of the kind collectively known as Empire. Not since 1830 have we had the fashions of Marie Antoinette and her predecessors served up in quite so marked degree. Picturesqueness in effect is generally aimed for; although it must be admitted that in some cases this is carried to a degree which becomes ridiculous. Take, for instance, one new jacket that is placed on the market by manufacturers who are anxious to distinguish themselves for novelty. It has a body cut in one piece exactly like a circular cape. Holes are cut for the arms-eye, and huge puffed sleeves are inserted. A full collar is sewed on, and one front corner is worn fastened to the opposite shoulder. It is a queer looking garment at best, and when worn by a short, stout woman, becomes positively hideous!

Such ultra styles, however, are not to be commended to Com-

fort readers. In making a tour of the Boston and New York stores plenty of pretty and attractive fashions were seen, by following which and studying her own good points a little, every one may find something which will give her the indefinable stamp of a well-dressed woman.

In spite of the capes, which at present are the most popular spring wraps, there are a great many new jackets worn, especially by misses and young ladies. These are of medium length, of plain cloth with silk facings or linings. Many of them have full cape collars; but unless these are particularly becoming, the plainer garments with wide revers-collars are to be recommended. Sleeves, both to jackets and dresses, are wide instead of high; and the sought-for effect everywhere is of width at the shoulders, instead of height, as last year. Capes, as before said, are the wraps of to-day for young, middle-aged, and elderly women. They are invariably cut in circular form and are of medium length. In the cape collar there is a great diversity of style. There is the single, close-fitting cape collar, with a high, flaring one cut in the same piece; there is the full, gathered one, with a Marie Stuart ruff at the neck; there are the triple capes, and there are

lovely double ones of cloth, beautifully embroidered over net, with the work "cut away." Then there are simple, rich looking velvet capes, made up plainly and, therefore, quite inexpensive. The prettiest and newest of all, however, is an utter novelty. The cape is cut from plain, heavy black net. Directly on the lace are rows and rows of heavy silk braid, and above these is a close pattern of braiding, almost covering the material of the cape. A high standing collar, also braided, finishes the garment, which is light, cool and exceedingly handsome.

Our illustrations give a view of this cape; also, of several styles of cape-collars.

The question of full skirts is still agitating

the public mind. The close bell-skirt of last year has disappeared but in its place we have not, as yet, hoops. What we do have is a variety of styles, all following a general rule; a little fullness across the front and hips; more in the back, gathered, not plaited in; and a flaring effect at the bottom. Some are made with several gores, some are made in circular shape, some have a bias seam in front and others in the back; but all have the same effect, prescribed as necessary by Dame Fashion.

But she has other fashions which are meant for ordinary people, and in spite of her vagaries, allows them still to dress sensibly and yet keep within the boundaries of her domain. She has, this year, worked such a change as has not been seen for a long time. Be-

one of last year's sensible fashions we shall retain, modified to suit this year's style; and that is the skirt and jacket with a variety of blouses to go with them. The jackets will be different from last season—the new Etons and Boleros having the preference. The blouse has proved itself a popular favorite, being cool becoming, sensible and, few

women are willing to see it go. After all, Dame Fashion has a sensible vein in her composition. Blouses are not materially different this spring from last year, the ones of simple design having a preference over more elaborate ones.

It is always well for people to remember that the most pronounced fashions are the quickest to pass away, and look the worst after they are "out." The sensible woman (and all COMFORT readers are sensible women) not only "cuts her garment according to her cloth" and suits it to the condition of her purse, but she contents herself with both material and cut that are not too radical. Then she is in the style while it lasts, and is not too ridiculous in the face of a newer one.

Some of the new "Empire" gowns seen on the streets in New York, remind one forcibly of the Mother Hubbard wrapper, with the difference

that they are made with a tight lining. Dress reform people at first hailed these gowns with glee; but on account of their close-fitting linings they are no more comfortable or healthful than the regular "tailor-made,"

THE NEWEST RIBBON BOWS

gowns; and while they make very pretty house dresses, they always suggest the morning wrap-on the street.

There is, perhaps, less change in the fashions of hats and bonnets than in other articles of dress this spring. We cannot wear last year's dresses without looking decidedly old-fashioned, but many of last year's hats will do very well this summer, with a little freshening up. Of course there are new shapes and odd looking ones; but those bonnets which, last summer, were not of any extreme style, are repeated with only slight modifications this year.

Very much depends upon the owner's skill and taste. A young woman went to a New York opening this spring and saw a "perfect love" which was marked \$25. She had exactly \$5.00 in her pocket, but no other bonnet suited her. Being an ingenuous girl, she set about studying the French bonnet. It was a simple straw; small, round and compact in shape. Close to the edge, over a binding of moss-green velvet, was a band of blue forget-me-nots. Above this was twisted a roll of moss-green velvet with the two ends standing erect in front. The crown was thickly covered with forget-me-nots and a few peeped out among the folds of the big bow.

"I will make one myself," said this bright girl. "I know I can get up one like that for five dollars." So she went out and bought the plain round hat, half a yard of bias green velvet and a big bunch of forget-me-nots. She paid \$1.00 for the first, \$1.00 for the second, and 62 1/2 cents for the third. Then she went home, and before she forgot the slightest detail of the Paris hat, sat down and made hers exactly like it. The bow was the most difficult part, but she had fixed the other one in her mind so firmly that with a little patience she achieved the real French air of sauciness and pertness, and her Paris bonnet cost her \$2.62 1/2. This bow is pictured in our illustrations. Everything in the shape of head gear is finished with these bows either directly in front or a little to one

side.

A dried ink spot leaves a permanent stain. If taken while fresh, however, milk will remove it. If the milk has soured, so much the better. Soak the spot for a while in the milk, then rub briskly and rinse in clear water.



COMFORT'S LONDON HAT.

COMFORT'S London correspondent sends sketches of several that are exceedingly popular on the other side. There is everything in tying a bow. Get a soft No. 16 ribbon and practice with it, studying our illustrations until you get the proper "style," and then you can give your hats and bonnets the right stamp. Some of the new hats come with a loop or two of straw standing erect at the front. These are meant to have ribbons mingled with them. Don't imagine, because you can't put \$15 or \$20 into a hat, that you cannot have a new one. Exercise your own ingenuity and skill, and follow our models and you will be surprised to find how inexpensive a thing a bonnet is after all.

In a general way there are several things COMFORT readers should know relative to the styles this spring. First:

The basque, pure and simple, has disappeared, and, also, the long coat-waist. Short bodices reaching only to the waist-line are universally seen on new gowns.

Sleeves are very full and hang out from the shoulder. Styles vary between the big puff ending above the elbow, with close-fitting lower sleeves; the full leg-of-mutton shape of 1830; and the plain bishop, or shirt sleeve. The latter will be much used on coat dresses.

Shoulder seams are much longer, and in some cases droop over the arm-socket. Waists are shorter than for several years.

Lace is much used for a garniture, the pointed bertha trimmings being a favorite.

Velvet sleeves are again fashionable, whether velvet is, or is not, used on the rest of the costume.

Combinations of color are very much worn, the favorite ones being moss-green and tan, cadet-blue and green, and heliotrope and blue. Less pronounced contrasts, however, are likely to best withstand the wear and tear of time.

None of the spring fashions are meant to be followed slavishly, without regard to figure or general becomingness. A prominent Boston dressmaker takes the best Paris fashion reviews, and is at least a month ahead of those who depend on New York houses alone for styles. But she says she never copies exactly any of the fashions given. She makes herself familiar with everything that comes out instead; and then she adapts the newest modes to the needs and style of her customers. This is just what COMFORT readers should do. Strong, serviceable goods made up within the bounds of fashion, but not according to its extremes, will give the most satisfaction in the end. The day has gone by when the "country cousin" can be distinguished on the street by her "countryfied" costume. With the excellent and practical designs given in COMFORT every month, every woman in the 1,200,000 homes where it is read, may be sensibly and fashionably dressed, and look exactly as well as her city cousin.

THINGS WOMEN SHOULD KNOW.

Castor oil is the best thing known for keeping leather pliable.

Never wash new silver in soap-suds, as that will turn it white.

Eat parsley after onions, and it will effectively destroy any odor in the breath.

If camphor-gum is placed in the drawer with new silver, the latter will not tarnish.

A sound, ripe apple placed in the tin cake-box will keep the leaves from drying or crumpling.

Never place a piano against an outside wall, unless you want it to gather dampness, and so be injured.

Cover jellies with a fourth of an inch of pulverized sugar and they will keep for years without "candy-ing."

Hot alum water is one of the best insect exterminators known. Apply it to cracks and crevices with a brush.

Watercress contains much sulphur and is an excellent tonic for the complexion and hair. Eat it raw or with salad dressing.

Wash cane-seat chairs that have "sagged" in warm soap-suds. Let them dry in the open air and they will be taut as new.

A good cement for mending china is made by stirring plaster of Paris into a strong solution of gum-arabic and water.

Peach juice stain, and in fact most fruit stains, may be easily removed by boiling water, poured directly on the spot.

Good liquid glue may be made by dissolving an ounce of borax in a pint of water. Add two ounces of shellac and boil in a double kettle until completely dissolved.

Salted peanuts are an excellent substitute for almonds. They should be blanched in boiling water, their skins rubbed off, and then rolled in salt butter and dried in a hot oven.

Flies hate the smell of clover. Where window-screens are not used, hang great bunches of clover blossoms, and as they dry every fly will leave the room, and will not return as long as the dried clover remains.

A dried ink spot leaves a permanent stain. If taken while fresh, however, milk will remove it. If the milk has soured, so much the better. Soak the spot for a while in the milk, then rub briskly and rinse in clear water.

A Russian moth-preventive is made by mixing an ounce of gum-camphor and one powdered red pepper, mixed with eight ounces of strong alcohol. The clothes are well sprayed with this mixture and then laid away in sheets.

French chalk finely scraped over grease-spots, will effectually remove them. Fine tissue-paper should be pinned over the chalk and the garment laid away for a few days. When taken out, shake off the chalk and carefully brush the spot.

A good rule for testing an oven is given by a celebrated French cook. Put a piece of white paper into the oven; if it blackens or blazes up, the oven is too hot; if it turns light brown, it is fit for pastry; if light yellow, it is right for sponge cake; if dark yellow, the oven is ready for heavy, rich cakes and for bread.

To loosen a glass stopper that will not come out, apply sweet oil or glycerine to the stopper at the point where it enters the neck of the bottle, and in an hour or so it can be removed. Another way is to wrap a stout string once about the neck, "sawing" it back and forth until sufficient heat is generated to expand the glass and release the stopper.

A new way to take out bruises on furniture is recommended; double a piece of brown butcher's wrapping-paper five or six times, and soak thoroughly in warm water. Lay this on the bruised spot and apply to it a warm, (not hot) flat-iron. Hold it there until the moisture has evaporated, when the bruise will have disappeared. In severe cases the process may have to be repeated.

Very few women know how many excellent uses common salt may be put to. As a dentifrice it has no superior. It is the best gargle, when dissolved in hot water, for a sore throat. The same solution is particularly beneficial for weak or inflamed eyes. Mixed with vinegar, it is the best thing in the world to scour tin or brass; in short, it has many uses beyond the mere flavoring or preserving of food.

A SEWING MACHINE FREE.

A \$65 machine, sold by us at \$11.00 to \$23.50 will be placed in your home to use, without cost of one cent to you. Cut this ad out and send with address today to Alvah Mfg. Co., Dept. A2, Chicago, Ill.

NEW DRESS FOR 10 CTS.

DIAMOND DYES MAKE OLD CLOTHES NEW.

It's Easy to Dye with Diamond Dyes.—Colors that Never Fade.—Letter from One who Has Used Them.—They Dye Any Color.

"I have used Diamond Dyes quite a while with great success. I have colored dresses which have been mistaken for new ones. I color scarfs, cloaks, ribbons, carpet rags, rugs, etc., and also make ink from them. They always give perfect satisfaction in the many ways in which I use them."

MAUD HUDSPETT, Salem, Mo.

Diamond Dyes cost 10 cents a package. Direction book and forty samples of colored cloth free. WELLS, RICHARDSON & Co., Burlington, Vt.

HOW TO MAKE



Many women with fair faces are deficient in beauty owing to undeveloped figures, flat busts, etc., which can be remedied by the use of ADIPO MALENE.

It is impossible to give a full description in an advertisement. Send 6c. in stamps, and a descriptive circular, with testimonials, will be sent you sealed, by return mail.

L. E. MARSH & CO., Madison Square, Phila., Pa.

SHORT-HAND SELF TAUGHT for self-instruction by BENN PITMAN and JEROME B. HOWARD, to THE PHONOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE CO., CINCINNATI, O.

B & B'S 110 LETTERS FIGURES & & complete outfit to print cards, linen, &c., or 4 for 50cts. For pen and pencil stamp. Jno. Self Inker any name, no. 10cts. Name on, 25cts. Town and state on either, 50cts. Try B & B's Rubber Stamp Co. H. 3 New Haven, Conn.

★FREE! ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS 300 Tunes. If you want one, cut this notice out and send to us. Also send SIX cents in stamp for BIG Story Paper, 3 months. M. A. WHITNEY, BOX 3139, BOSTON, MASS.

A HAIR GROWER Prof. Duke's Hair Grower is a hairy moustache on my smooth face in 4 weeks. It restored the hair on my head which was perfectly bald. The only remedy. Prof. Duke's Med. Co., Palatine, Ill.

YOUR NAME THIS WEEK. Auto. Album. 75c. Album Verses, Ring, Pencil, FOUNTAIN PEN, I. Handly's New Samples & STORE PAPER'S MONTH, ALL 10c. CLINTON & CO., NORTH HAVEN, CONN.

LADIES Make men's wages writing for me at home. For terms send self-addressed and stamped envelope. MISS RUTH CHESTER, South Bend, Ind.

AGENTS —Canvassers; Household article; quick seller; good pay; write for circulars and terms. MORGAN MFG. CO., Kalamazoo, Mich.

CANCER Dr. Hartman's treatment for Cancer. A book free. Address Surgical Hotel, Columbus, O. Even hopeless cases recover.

AGENTS wanted. Liberal Salary paid. At home or to travel. Team furnished. P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Mo.

TOOTH BRADYCROTINE for 5 cent stamp will relieve. KEEP IT HANDY. BRADYCROTINE MANFG., CO., Macon, Ga.

MARRIAGE PAPER FREE. 500 ladies and gents want correspondents GUNNELS' MONTHLY, TOLEDO, OHIO.

Fits Epilepsy. The only sure treatment. I insure an entire cure, to stay cured for life! I ask no fee. Dr. Kruse, M. C. 2348 Arsenal St., St. Louis, Mo.

GUITAR self taught, without notes, 50 cts. BANJO. \$1. Circular and cat. of instr. FREE. A. PARKE, 85 Fifth Ave. Chicago.

YOUR NAME ON 25 ELEGANT FRIENDSHIP CARDS, 20 Imported Ornaments, 12 PENS, 1 Chain, 1 Lace Pin, 1 Ring, with our popular STORE PAPER 3 months, 10c. Samples to LAUREL CARD CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.

FREE Sample book of NEW CARDS. \$1.00. Post Card Outfit. Send 25c for postage. GLEN'S CARD CO., North Haven, Conn.

\$4.00 Per 1,000 Good men wanted in every country to sell. Give references. E. A. MARSH & CO., Madison Square, Phila., Pa.

BABES THAT NEVER CRY.

Copyright, 1893, by The Gannett & Morse Concern.

VE was probably the only woman that never had a doll. That was one of the things she missed by being born grown up.

It would not be surprising if Cain and Abel played with dolls, for the most careful research fails to find a time when children did not have their dolls.

No one knows who made the first one or who suggested it.

The instinct which makes a child hug its dolly and be happy is as natural to it as breathing. The reason of the passion has interested scientists and been a subject of study for many a psychologist.

It is a love as common to the most savage and uncivilized of races as it is to the most refined of nations. The savage child in the wilds of Africa hugs a baby of carved bone or one rudely cut from wood to its heart with the same satisfaction with which the baby of a New York millionaire's household presses to her heart the latest thing from Paris with eyes that can open and shut and a talking machine inside of it.

The princess feels no greater happiness over her doll than many a beggar child has felt with a shawl rolled into a baby, and pressed comfortingly against her heart.

It is a mysterious emotion, this embryo maternal and paternal instinct, with which childhood seems to be endowed.

Queen Victoria had 132 dolls, and all but thirty of them she dressed herself in imitation of various famous people that she had seen. These dolls are all preserved to-day. But the little princess Victoria's dolls would be despised even by poor children to-day for their ugliness. They were Dutch dolls, little wooden figures from 6 to 9 inches long and painted in the crudest way. But fifty years ago that was the kind of plaything with which even the heiress to the throne of Great Britain had to be satisfied.

To-day handsome dolls are made at such a reasonable price that the child of the working man can have a doll with a sweet face, with eyes that open and shut and real hair.

Some idea of the extent of the demand for dolls can be understood from the fact that in Sonneburg in Thuringia, a little town in Germany, which consists of one long street, there are 32,000 people—men, women and children—occupied in making dolls. Every year 24,000,000 are sent out of that country.

In the early days dolls were mostly made in the Netherlands, and became familiarly spoken of as "Flanders Babes." These Flemish dolls were of wood, cheaply painted, a dab of red on the cheeks composing a complexion, and they had hideous spindle legs of wood.

Nuremberg still turns out its dolls though they have been quite surpassed by those of other places.

In Waltenhausen, in Saxony-Coburg, there lives to-day a family by the name of Kastner, that for generations have been famous doll makers. The modern jointed doll was first made there. Fathers and sons for generations back have been devoted to the industry, and their children and their children's children now form a village of doll makers.

The best made German doll has not to-day the fascination which the more beautiful and ingenious French doll has, though the manufacture of the French doll is by no means as extensive as that of the German. The French doll, however, can wink and open and shut its eyes, and even talk.

A dolly that can go to sleep is the height of a child's ambition.

For twenty-five years the English wax doll has had a place in the market which nothing else had just filled. The industry thrives in England and there are quite a number of prosperous London doll makers.

But in spite of that fact a million dollars worth of toys are taken into England every year.

The methods of making dolls is interesting, different manufacturers making a specialty of a certain part of the doll's anatomy.

In German towns where the industry thrives there are doll head makers, doll leg makers, doll arm makers, doll body makers, doll wig makers, and the manufacturer collects the various parts of the body and has them put together, sometimes in another town.

In London it is just the same. There the doll's eye making is quite an industry and hundreds of thousands of the eyes are sent out of England every year. Much of this work is also done in Paris.

It is an odd but true fact that since the coronation of Victoria blue eyes are almost universally used in dolls for the English market, and the black glass eyes exported to other countries.

In London there are doll dressmakers, just as Dickens so touchingly drew in his "Mutual



LADY ARNOLD, ONE OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S DOLLS. Friend." Jenny Wrens are common enough in the great town, for to-day children can be as extravagant with their doll's trousseaus as their mothers are with their own outfits. There is nothing which real people have in the way of clothes, and toilette articles, furniture and

adornments that is not made for the doll babies of the rich.

Originally dolls were made of wood, then of paper mache, then of plaster, and then of china, finally of wax, and at last of parian, beautifully colored. Gutta percha and rubber are still used for babies' dolls, but there are no such satisfactory dolls as rag dolls and no more artistic dolls either—that is, for the use of the tiny baby.

At a recent church fair held in Boston there were a number of dolls donated, not for sale but to be sent to the children's hospital for which the fair was given. They were colored dolls. Their black faces were beautifully painted by an artist. They had real woolly hair, real stockings and shoes, and were dressed throughout with great care. Their gingham frocks and white aprons made them most fetching.

The physician at the head of the hospital said afterwards that those dolls did more good than all his medicine or skill.

The baby offered as a premium with COMFORT, a picture of which will be found on another page, under the head of "A child's love for a doll," is a very popular baby for the little ones. Thousands of them have already been dressed for church fairs, and the person in whose mind originated the idea of printing a doll which could be cut out and stuffed by anyone, is making a fortune out of it. It costs little and yet the result is attractive. The great trouble with rag dolls in the past has been that they were ugly and undoll-like to look at. But this one is pretty.

It has a great advantage. You can sit down on it.

It seems to do it good. That is a performance that all children have moods of enjoying. It is usually disastrous to both parties. But in the case of this dolly, baby and her child are as good friends after the experiment as before.

Moreover it can be sent through the mail.

It is practically proof against time, climate, and hard usage.

There are certain foreign tribes where the practise of caring for a doll is not confined to the children. Among the Bechuanas married women always carry a doll until they have a child of their own, and a similar practise exists among the Basuto women.

In 1851 at the London Exposition there was no more interesting booth than that where the dolls were shown of all ages, from the cradle to white hair, and in all sort of garbs from baby clothes to court toilette.

At the Paris Exposition a few years ago the show was magnificent because doll making had very much advanced.

In all probability at Chicago this spring the exhibits to which all countries will contribute will be even more interesting.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Owing to the changes announced for the Puzzle department, which render it necessary that it shall hereafter be conducted from the home office, we are forced, reluctantly, to part company with our friend Oldcastle, of the Mystic Circle.

As announced last month, all correspondence in regard to the Mystic Circle must still be addressed to Oldcastle, Utica, N. Y.; and all communications in regard to the New Prize Puzzle Club, to the Editor Prize Puzzle Club, Augusta, Me.

SOLVERS OF FEB. MYSTERIES.

W. E. Wiatt, 9-1-2; Eglantine, 9; Waldemar, Miss Blanche Bancroft, 8-1-2; Thinker, Cowboy and F. I. Dont, 7; Swamp Angel, 6-1-2; Sear, Aspico, 6; Ypsie, 5; Locust, So So, Lomax, Calo and Tyro, 4; P. A. Stime, Mrs. G. P. C., Misses Josie and Daisy Bourjal, 3; Eureka, Gobge and Julia McKinley, 2; W. C. Marlow, 1.

Prize-winners:—1. W. E. Wiatt. 2. Eglantine. 3. Waldemar.

Prizes:—1. Tyro. 2. Mrs. G. P. C.

Accepted Contributions:—Locust, Tyro, Lomax, Blue Nose, 2. Dylac, Ypsie, Aspico, Cowboy, one each.

SOLUTIONS TO FEBRUARY'S MYSTERIES.

No. 382. Seraphine. No. 383. DRESSER
No. 384. Pen-and-ink—
"Penanink."

No. 385. TAT
EGRESS
TRAPPER
GAELIC
APPLE
REVERE
APPAME
ELEVEN
PLUME
SIRENE
TEEMERS
SCENES
RES

No. 386. SOC
SAVAGE
SIGMOID
ARIMAN
GRIPS
VIPERS
OMINATE
AMERCE
OPAKE
GARCIA
CISTERNS
ENSEANI
DEN

No. 387. J
SO
YEOLITE
ENGINE
OGIVE
SLIVER
JOINERS
TE
E

No. 388. B
AS
BANANAS
SALINE
NIDOR
ANOEDS
SERENES
SE
S

No. 389. Ink-horn.
No. 390. Tobacco-pipe
—fish.

No. 391.—
TARANIS
MARINER
MEDALET
SENEGEN
SENATOR
DILATED
CENTERS

ODDITIES.

Capital punishment is abolished in Colorado. It is said that color-blindness prevails to an alarming extent among sailors.

When a baby girl is born in Sicily, a black flag is hung from the window.

There is a lake in Massachusetts which manages to keep itself full and still bear the name—Chaubungmaug.

In this country it is impossible to find a man wearing an official decoration. In France it is difficult to find anybody without one.

A New York bank has devised a patent paper for checks, on which alterations are impossible without immediate revelation on the check itself.

"Wood-etching" is done with red-hot iron points, and platinum pencils heated at a spirit lamp. With these are traced, upon a delicate strip of fine-grained hard wood, a beautiful picture.

A friendless old man dropped dead in New York last month, who was supposed to be a pauper. After his death a will was found leaving a property of nearly \$200,000 to various charities.

A man living near Utica, N. Y., who has been dumb for sixty-five years, has just regained his speech. Doctors cannot explain it, and all his neighbors are struck dumb with astonishment at the strange phenomenon.

A Syracuse, N. Y., wheelman is to start, June 1st, for a four thousand mile trip across the continent. The novel thing about this is that he has but one leg; but he has the reputation of holding his own with any two-legged bicyclist in the land.

A recent sale of postage stamps aggregated \$3,200. Some of the highest prices paid were for a Hawaiian island stamp of 1851, \$285; for a Baltimore of 1846, \$25; and for a New Haven stamp of 1845, \$325. At this rate it pays to save up old postage stamps.

Judge David Davis always used to place his signature close to the body of his letters. He explained this by saying that he once had a celebrated forgery case in which it was proved that the forger had written a promissory note between the signature of a

prominent business man, and a letter which he had written at a considerable distance above it, on the same sheet.

A new trick of the forger is to bleach out, by chemicals, the body of a business man's letter, leaving the letter-head and signature intact. Then he writes in a promissory note on the blank space and gets it discounted by some reliable firm. Thus does chemistry aid the criminally inclined. It is, however, possible to test the paper thus treated and to prove that it has been bleached.

The greatest eater in the world died a few weeks ago in Pennsylvania. His first gastronomical feat was to eat five pounds of food at a sitting, some years ago. Since then he has eaten fifty eggs in an hour; but his greatest achievement was a few years ago when he ate for one meal, a boiled goose, five pounds of frankfurters, one pound of Swiss cheese, a loaf of rye bread; and washed this slight repast down with two gallons of beer. He lived by eating, in an unusual sense, as he earned his living by wagers.

LADIES LACE PINS FREE.

We have some new style Gold-plate Bangle Pins coming in very unique patterns, comprising the Souvenir Spoon, Key and various new styles. We want every one to get our new Catalogue and Premium List of 500 new articles in Jewelry and Household goods, so if you address Morse & Co., Box 155, Augusta, Maine, and enclose 4c. for mailing we will send one of these real gold-plated pins free postpaid, and also include a specimen copy of COMFORT, the only Magazine that has ever attained a circulation of over Eleven Hundred Thousand copies each issue.

Special Premium Offers
For Comfort.

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:
Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."

We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, hand-tied, colored Hammocks, which for the next sixty days we shall place on the Free List, upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one absolutely free. These Hammocks are over 10 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends, and a strong cord along the entire length of sides. No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of six subscribers for Comfort at 25 cents per year, each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of Comfort to your neighbors, friends, and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for COMFORT, with its many improvements and new, original, copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club, we will send COMFORT for one year, together with one of these Hammocks, all express and mailing charges paid by us upon receipt of one dollar.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE DOLLAR CAMERA
AND OUTFIT COMPLETEA GENUINE PHOTO-TAKING MACHINE, NOT A TOY,
But a Perfect Picture Producer, to be set up and
used in any home.

In the line of our hundreds of low priced and reliable specialties, we now manufacture this Complete Photographing Outfit, which will be our leader during the coming season. This outfit consists of everything shown in cut and mentioned below: A strong and perfectly made CAMERA, which will take a picture 2 1/2 inches square, complete with adjustable holder for Plate and PERFECT LENS with cap; A package of the renowned "Harvard Dry Plates"; 2 Japanned Tin Developing Trays; 1 Printing Frame; 1 package Blue Process Paper; 1 sheet Ruby Paper; 1 package Photo Mounts; Hyposulphite Soda; Developing Chemicals; complete and explicit instructions, enabling ANYONE to take ANY CLASS OF PICTURES with this Outfit. Now please remember that you are not buying a Camera ONLY but a complete and PERFECT OUTFIT, all ready for use without further expense to you. No such Outfit has ever been sold heretofore for less than \$5.00. Everything is carefully made and prepared and bound to work perfectly. A wonder to all who see it and its work. You are not restricted to any class of pictures. You can take Landscapes, Portraits, Buildings, in fact ANYTHING. The whole, securely packed in a wood case for shipping. Be your own Photographer. How many places of interest and friends that are dear, do you encounter every day whose image you would like to preserve? With this outfit you can do it and almost without expense. It contains all the necessary materials. The instructions "do the rest." PRICE ONLY \$1.00 by express, by mail postpaid \$1.15. Given for a club of 8 subscribers to COMFORT at 25 cents each.

If you would like to secure a larger and more expensive Outfit FREE, send for our complete Catalogue and Premium List. We have a grand Outfit for \$2.50 and the Eclipse, No. 3, for only \$10.00. We will send extra sample copies of this grand May Number of COMFORT, together with subscription blanks so that it will be an easy matter for you to obtain subscribers and secure an outfit at once so you can build up a large business this season.



The COMFORT A, B, C DRESS-CUTTING SYSTEM,

Free, as a Premium.

Easiest to understand. Best and cheapest.

Gives the quickest results with least trouble.

No figuring. No calculations. No blunders!

Most correct shape of any system ever devised.

Every lady can learn more at a glance, using this system, than by many hours' study of others. The first trial will secure its adoption. It is equally valuable in the home or to the regular dressmaker.

Gives full instructions how every girl and woman can make for herself tasteful and well-fitting dresses, waists, and basques with the greatest ease and speed. Most scientific and exact results with the least measuring.

HERE IS WHAT WE GIVE:

One Regulation Size Differential Chart,

One Dozen Sheets Pattern Paper,

One Well-made Steel Tracing Wheel,

One Regular Dressmaker's Tape Measure.

It is a heavily mounted chart over two yards long and two feet wide, having the different measurements all lined out for all kinds of garments, with Bust Measures from 25 to 46 inches. You get the Bust Measure of the person you want to cut a garment for and that one being the ONLY measurement required. Now it requires NO DRAFTING, for all the different sizes have been calculated and drafted right on to the chart at each cutting point, show just where your size is to come by simply laying on a piece of COMMON PAPER and tracing along the line with a lead pencil. All you then have to do is to cut your goods by the pattern you have thus manufactured yourself—that is all there is to it. But remember, you will find everything on the chart in shape, style and build of garments you want to use, and if you have old wearing apparel you want to make over into stylish fits, you go by the same system in changing them.

It Costs no More to have a STYLISH FITTING GARMENT than a poor one, and you actually save 50 per cent on goods by using our system, it has been studied down to such a fine point by experienced draftsmen. So it requires no mathematical calculations on your part at all (all other systems require a good deal), you just go by the plans all laid out for you. You will find it so SIMPLE, COMPLETE and PERFECT in all its patterns and departments that it can but be acknowledged to be a requisite in EVERY FAMILY, while ALL OTHER CHARTS are so complicated and high-priced that they are entirely worthless to any but the most experienced dressmakers. Ours makes EVERY ONE a dressmaker in ten minutes. The regular price of charts alone is \$2.00.

But to every one who will get up a club of six subscribers for COMFORT at 25 cents per year, each in advance, we will send one of these COMFORT OUTFITS FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of COMFORT to your neighbors, friends, and acquaintance, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for COMFORT, with its many improvements and new, original, copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club, we will send COMFORT for one year, together with one of these OUTFITS (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of one dollar. This offer holds good for three months only.



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LAST every saint and sinner is to have a change of air, as the Government has decided to reform the weather. If there is a country on the face of the globe whose mean temperature during the past year has been meaner than that of the United States, the exhibit of the weather machine of such country at the World's Fair ought to be a stunner. According to reports, it seems that ever since the signal service was turned over from the war to the agricultural department, about a year ago, the latter has been raising more wind than wheat, and harvesting more thunder than turnips. Some of the high-priced clerks, it is said, were too innocent to correctly read the barometer, but sufficiently enterprising to carry off and pawn the entire weather outfit, from the official spittoon to the silvery lining which our grandmothers told us

was attached to every cloud. The new rain-maker also intimates that his predecessor seldom hoisted the danger signal until it had commenced raining, or hats and hoop-skirts were seen soaring through the air.

From promises held out, we may now look for a reign of perpetual sunshine, relieved by gentle showers of otter of roses, and farmers may reasonably expect to raise four crops a year from the newly-discovered plant that produces potatoes at the bottom, corn at the top and wood in the middle—food, fuel and fodder all in one; while Mary Ann can go to the picnic all the year round. In other words, the weather flag of the future is trimmed with tidings of comfort and joy.

NE of the great ocean steamers recently brought to New York the latest candidate for American citizenship. His baggage consisted chiefly of a sprig of shamrock, an old clay pipe and a severe toothache. For the relief of the latter, he took himself to one of the popular painless dental parlors, for which the metropolis is noted. On entering, the royal luxury of the place struck him so nearly dumb with astonishment that he was scarcely able to point out his tuneful tooth. Amid sounds of the softest, most entrancing music, which floated mysteriously upon the air, a beautiful damsel approached and motioned him to a gorgeously nickel-plated red plush chair. She then gave him the end of a highly ornamented hose-pipe to bite on, and smilingly invited him to help himself to a dose of laughing gas. He did so, and the first thing he knew was that he didn't know anything—until he was roused by a gentle shake and the sight of his quarrelsome fang held up before him.

With many expressions of gratitude Pat prepared to pay his bill, but almost swooned a second time when the little lady said, "Two dollars, please."

"Why," said he, "in me native town of Cork there was a man who lived three stories up in a little back room and did bleedin' and clippin' of terrier's ears and tooth drawin'. And it's myself that wint wance to him with an aching tooth and he got a toin' hoit on it and gev a murtherous pull. It wouldn't come. An' he dragged me out of the chair and through the room and down the flight of stairs bayant; and still it wouldn't come. And down the second flight we wint, and him still on the tooth; and down the third pair of steps we wint together, and just as we struck the sidewalk the tooth kem out—an' all that only cost ninepence."

That recalls an incident in the life of John McCullough, the famous actor. While playing in an Ohio theatre, one of the "supers," who assisted in the production, had to rush upon the stage yelling, "Flee, flee, thine enemy is upon you." He did this in about the same tone of voice in which one would ask a stranger to show him the way home. This so provoked McCullough that he called a dress re-



FLEE! FLEE!

a realistic manner that half the company were on the point of taking to their heels, while the stage carpenter yelled "police, police!" After the excitement had calmed down, the super stepped forward and said, "Mister McCullough, if Ol' cod shapke them words loike yerself Ol'd be scallywagged if Ol'd worruk for fifty cents a night." The actor wilted.

It is rumored that a syndicate has been formed for

the purpose of exhibiting at the World's Fair the only true specimen of American independence—one that will be looked upon with awe by the natives, and with curiosity by all foreigners. It is the American Hired Girl As She Is. The only hitch that has occurred seems to be in the choice of the best representative type of that queenly creature—whether to exhibit the one who wants the parlor to entertain her company in, or the one who "never works in a family as has children." Why not compromise the matter and send the fairy who "wont hire out in the country because there's so little excitement?"

THE KINSABY CRINOLINE—COL-
LAPSED.

among other good points all the advantages of the hoop-skirt, without any of its drawbacks.

As every woman knows, the hoop-skirt, while readily navigated in fair weather and when there is plenty of leeway, behaves scandalously in company, or when working to windward. With the Pneumatic Petticoat it is the simplest thing in the world to reef all sail and run before the wind with the ease and dexterity with which our crack American yachtsmen walk off with the British cup every year.

Its wonderful self-adjustment is due to a series of air-tight hems and tucks, which are made of rainbow ribbon and rendered collapsible and inflatable at will, the fair occupant merely pressing one or the other of two ornamental but inconspicuous buttons at her waist. By the use of this common sense crinoline any lady may either "spread herself" by touching the inflation button, or instantly become slight and slender by means of the automatic collapser.

A special feature of this novel invention is an attachment known as the Delsarte Muscle Electrifier, an ingenious contrivance by which the wearer (though she may weigh 300 pounds) appears to fairly float through the air with a gliding grace and flexibility that years of physical culture could not secure. This point alone is bound to secure its adoption by the bong tong of all nations.



THE KINSABY CRINOLINE—INFLATED.

It is adapted to all walks of life, including side-walks and cake-walks, and while modesty prevents our speaking further in its behalf, we print with pride and satisfaction the following testimonials:

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine:—The Kinsabey Crinoline is a dream. None but pneumatic petticoats shall hereafter be worn at Mamma's court receptions. ALBERT EDWARD, Prince of Wales.

Monsieur Kinsabey:—Ze Crinoline is ze premiere petticoat of ze nineteenth century. It is magnifique—vat you call immense—bang up! Yours for Comfort, SARA BERNHARDT.

To COMFORT:—I consider the Kinsabey Crinoline a discovery better than "Ta-ra-ra," and when I am in it I can kick three feet higher than ever.

LOTTIE COLLINS, champion skirt dancer.

To the Publishers of COMFORT:—I appeared last night as "Cleopatra" in a Kinsabey Crinoline. When I expanded it, it brought down the house. I shall wear no other. MRS. JAMES BROWN POTTER.

Editor COMFORT:—During my next farewell tour I shall wear nothing but the Kinsabey Crinoline.

ADELINE PATTI.

As this crinoline is constructed principally of air, any nimble fingered maid who is clever with needle and thread may possess one at a nominal cost. With a view to giving the fullest particulars, there will shortly be published a profusely illustrated pamphlet entitled "The Kinsabey Crinoline, or the Rise and Fall of the Hoop Skirt." Any one wishing a copy should send to the author thirty-seven five-cent stamps, not for publication, but to help along the good cause of Dress Reform.

GOING TO WORLD'S FAIR? Take Your Card; 50 elegantly printed, name and address, 35c.; 3 lots \$1.00. P. O. order or Postal note. GEORGE GETHIN, 323 W. 17th St., New York

The Spring Curry Comb

Clock Spring Blade. Soft as a Brush.

Fits Every Curve.

The Only Perfect

Comb.

Used by U. S. Army.

Sample mailed postpaid 25c.

Spring Curry Comb Co.

95 S. La Fayette St., South Bend, Ind.



A 25c. package makes 5 gallons. Be sure and get Hires'.

Hires' Root Beer.

A Delicious, Temper-
ance, Thirst-quenching,
Health-Giving Drink.
Good for any time of year.

RELIABLE MEN everywhere (local or traveling) to advertise and keep our Show Cards tacked up in towns or cities and fences along public roads. Steady work in your own county. \$70 A MONTH SALARY AND \$3 A DAY EXPENSES deposited in your BANK when started. FRANCO-GERMAN ELECTRIC CO., CINCINNATI, O.

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